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AN EXPLANATION

OF THE

PRINCIPLES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Provident Institution

AT BATH,

FOR SAVINGS.

BY

JOHN HAYGARTH, M. D.

F. R. S. and F. R. S. ED.

ONE OF THE MANAGERS.

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TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

THE DEPOSITOR'S BOOK, WITH THE REGULATIONS, TABLES, &c.;

THE BY-LAWS;

AN ACCOUNT OF THE MODE OF TRANSACTING THE BUSINESS;

AND THE FIRST YEAR'S REPORT.

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FOR

LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, AND BROWN,

PATER-NOSTER-ROW, LONDON.

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The deposits of the lower orders of people at Bath, invested in the 5 per cent. Fund, between the 6th of February, 1815, *and October,* 1816, *have purchased* £9580 *Stock. Many of the present depositors will receive more than 5 per cent. for their money, from their share of the dividend, together with their surplus, in* 1820.

In this Explanation, for the sake of discussing more distinctly on what principles Provident Institutions and Saving Banks ought to be founded, these Titles have been distinguished from each other, though some have assumed both—and some, titles the reverse of these here ascribed to them.

EXPLANATION, &c.

§. I.

IN 1808,* a Society of four Ladies and four Gentlemen was formed, to enable Servants, in Bath, to preserve what part of their wages they could spare. The Fund was not to exceed £2000, for which collateral security was given to the Trustees. Interest was allowed at 4 per cent., or 6d. for 12s. 6d., being a halfpenny a month; and the money was to be restored, when wanted. If the Deposits amounted to £50, they were to be withdrawn. On the repayment of this sum, the Trustees constantly recommended its immediate investment in the public Funds. Deposits might then be made in a new account.

* See Collections relative to the Relief of the Poor, p. 178, 180.

The Servants' Fund was judiciously regulated, and completely answered the promised conditions; because the £2000 was placed upon collateral security, which was not variable, and because it was always full, from more Deposits, ready, when they could be admitted. This Society produced such beneficial effects, and the solicitations to receive Deposits therein so far exceeded the £2000, that, in 1813, attempts were made to extend these valuable privileges to all the lower classes of people, without any limitation. For this purpose, a general assembly of the inhabitants and visitors of Bath was summoned on the 19th of March, when there was nominated a Committee of 35, who were "highly "respectable for their rank, ability, and bene-"volence." As the Fund might become very large, no other than the security of Government was proposed. During many conferences, in March, April, and May, 1813, endeavours were made to form Regulations, upon the conditions of "allowing to all the same interest, and of re-"storing the sum of money deposited." But, after much deliberation, these conditions were found to be utterly impracticable.

I devised, and on the 29th of March 1813, submitted to the consideration of the Committee,

a PROPOSAL to make each Depositor of one or more pounds a Proprietor in the public Funds, in the following words:

"That each deposit into the Provident Fund shall be made in even pounds: That a Table shall be calculated, to determine how much Stock the Deposit has purchased, according to the variations of the 3 per cents. from £50 to £100, (and so of other Stocks,) at the time when it was invested in the Funds: That in another Table or Column shall be calculated what Dividend will be due upon the said Stock: That four-fifths of this Dividend shall be given to the Depositor, and one-fifth reserved to pay expenses: That a Certificate be given by the Actuary to the person who deposits the money, stating what Stock is purchased with the said Deposit, according to the rate calculated in the Tables, and what is the sum arising from four-fifths of the Dividend, which the Depositor is annually to receive. That the annual payments shall be indorsed on the certificate: That after the Stock is sold, the Depositor shall receive the full price of it in money without any expense: That the certificate is then to be given up to the Actuary, and cancelled.

" *Remarks.*—The Provident Institution is intended to be founded upon this principle, that after the expense of the first establishment, it shall always maintain itself, without either profit or loss. If we can reduce this principle to practice, many will follow our example, and greater benefit may be expected from it to our country, than from the most liberal charity. Let us reflect upon the comfort, credit, and prosperity, that may probably be derived from our endeavours, if they prove successful; not only to this City and its vicinity, but to many other, particularly manufacturing districts, following our example, in various parts of England, and not only to the present, but to future generations; so that millions of families may have reason to bless the Provident Institution of Bath."

" April 2d, 1813. The free, candid, and very zealous disquisitions of the Committee have produced much interesting information. But unfortunately there seems to be a general despondency in regard to the establishment of a Provident Institution. Perhaps I may be almost singular in my opinion, that it might be founded upon safe, equitable, and permanent principles.

" Let us in the first place understand, that the two following Proposals, suggested by benevo-

lence, without due consideration, must be relinquished.

1st. "*We must engage to give the poor man 4 per cent. for his money.*"

"It is probable that the 3 per Cents. may rise to or above 80. The proposed interest of 4 per cent. would then equal or exceed the whole Dividend. In these circumstances must the Provident Institution be disgracefully dissolved? Or must the Trustees be obliged to pay the annual deficiency, which, in a course of years, might amount to many thousand pounds?

"Again, it is proposed that, 2d, "*We must engage to pay the poor man in money the sum which he has deposited in the Provident Fund.*"

"Suppose Stocks were bought when high, and afterwards, as usual, sunk low. This might be occasioned by some national misfortune, which had produced a general panick, At such a time, great numbers would demand the money that they had deposited, which would prove a loss, perhaps of many thousands, to the Trustees. If there were any demur in the repayment of the money, the delay might excite or aggravate an insurrection. No Trustee would be so improvident as to endanger his fortune, and perhaps

his personal safety, which might be thus exposed to the fury of such popular commotions.

" Hence it manifestly appears, that both these Proposals, which are so impracticable and so ruinous, and which in a few years might produce such private misfortunes and public calamities, ought to be totally abandoned.

" But if Depositors were to be *Stockholders*, few of them would sell out of the Funds at the low price, so that but little loss would be suffered, and all would heartily unite in the support of order and good government.

" In order to lessen the dangerous responsibility to which Trustees would be exposed by engaging to restore the money, a Depositor to the amount of £50 was required to withdraw this sum, and invest it in the Public Funds.

" But if all the Depositors of one or more pounds shall be made *Stockholders*, *under the protection, superintendance, and management of the Provident Institution*, there can be no reason to limit the sum which each may deposit; the larger the sum, the greater would be the advantage both to the Depositor and the Institution. He has always the liberty to sell all or any part of his Stock at the current price. Where can a person, who has in his possession only £50

or £100, place it so safely and so profitably? By lending it upon bad security, in hopes of getting more interest, he might probably lose the whole, and all our endeavours to assist him to preserve his Savings would be entirely frustrated."

At one meeting of the Committee, there was a subscription, by the members then present, of £2000, as a security to indemnify the loss that the Trustees might suffer from a fall of Stock. But even such a security could not induce any member of the Committee to undertake the office of Trustee. This transaction proves their benevolent zeal, and at the same time their discernment and discretion.

After quoting the Proposal* and the arguments, which I stated in 1813, that anticipated, what *might* reasonably be expected, it will be proper to illustrate them both by examples from the facts which experience, though of but a few months, has suggested.

The *Saving Banks* have adopted the Regulations of the Servants' Fund of Bath, with but few alterations. The Trustees and Managers

* See the PROPOSAL, with additional Regulations and Remarks, which I printed for private communication, and afterwards published by a Friend, in the Reports of the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor, vol. vi. App. xxii.

engage to give 4 per cent. interest for the Deposits, and to restore the money deposited.

Provident Institutions are founded upon very different principles. The Depositors themselves are enabled to become *Proprietors* in the Public Funds. To avoid mistakes, they ought to be distinguished from each other by separate titles. Let the advantages of Provident Institutions and Saving Banks, respectively to each other, be freely compared, in regard to safety, profit, and useful accommodation.

1*st.* To guard against the loss to which Trustees and Managers are exposed by a fall of Stock, it has been resolved, by some of these beneficent societies, that no Depositor can invest a larger sum than 10, 25, or £50. Will not this restriction greatly retard, if not entirely defeat, the purposes which we are so desirous to accomplish? The amount of such Deposits must be very small, and, consequently, the advantages to be derived from them will manifestly be of very little importance. Our aim is to enable, and induce, poor people to preserve all their Savings, on the best security, and most profitably, so as to provide comfortable support for themselves and their families in sickness and old age. Can 10, 25, or £50, confer these blessings?

The Provident Institution has assigned no limit to the sum that a Depositor may invest in the Provident Fund; no such restriction appears to be necessary, if this valuable privilege be chiefly confined to the lower orders of people. Because, when the Deposits amount to a considerable sum, the depositor himself will discover his advantage in taking his 5 per cents. into his own name, instead of allowing one-fifth (or one-sixth) of his Dividend for management. Among the lower classes, very few, except servants, have saved any money. Nearly all the other Savings must be entirely a new creation; and in a few years, when the Deposits are become considerable, and then voluntarily drawn from the Provident Institution, the business of bankers, and of other professions concerned in money transactions, must be greatly increased, in consequence of the Savings of the lower orders of people. The only mischief, if it be a mischief, that can be apprehended, will be to hasten the insolvency of some feeble banks, which are already on the brink of bankruptcy.

2*nd*. On the other hand, if Saving Banks receive money without any limitation, and yet engage to restore the sum deposited, the consequences must be ruinous. Thus during only four months

(from March to July 1815) the 5 per cents., which vary least, fell from £95 to £84, being a loss of £11 upon each £95. If the Saving Fund had only been £20,000, the loss on selling out would have been £2315, if the Depositors had then demanded their money. But if we should be blest with a durable peace, then the Saving Fund, in many situations, will become several times £20,000, and a large portion of the Deposits will be invested at a higher rate than £95, and may be required to be sold lower than £84 on the succeeding war.

And as it must be generally known, that Saving Banks are liable to become insolvent, whenever the Funds suffer a considerable fall, this manifest defect in their constitution will greatly injure their credit, and discourage the poor people of the district from depositing their Savings, long before such a calamitous event.

3*d*. The Saving Banks only give interest of 4 per cent. Since the commencement of the Provident Institution, the 5 per cents. have varied from 95 to 84. In the last column of the Table of Stock, it appears, that the year's income at £95 was 10d. in the pound, or 4l. 3s. 4d. per cent., and at £84 was 11½d. in the pound, or 4l. 15s. 10d. per cent. This income will al-

ways remain the same, as long as the money continues invested, whatever may be the variation in the price of Stock. If the Depositor be only allowed 4 per cent., he will be deprived of 3s. 4d. per cent. when at £95; and of 15s. 10d. per cent. when at £84, annually. It may be answered, that justice will be done by a division of the surplus. But all who withdraw their money before this division, from urgent want, and others who are required to withdraw it at 10, 25, or £50 will lose a serious portion of the interest which is strictly their due. A large number of our Depositors invested their money when the Funds were low. A great many of them, having added a few shillings to their Dividends to make even pounds, have re-invested what they received since the 20th of January 1816; so that their money is already accumulating by compound interest, at a much higher rate than 4 per cent.

4th. As the Saving Banks reckon interest by the month, and on such fractions as 6d. on 12s. 6d. the accounts must be extremely complicated, so as to be kept with great difficulty, when the Depositors become numerous. Whereas, the Deposits of the Provident Institution being invested in Stock, all such trouble is completely obviated. The two half-yearly Dividends we

pay in January. But if a Depositor sell his Stock between July and January, he receives the July Dividend; and as the price of his Stock gradually increases between the payment of each Dividend, this increase of price is the exact interest of the money, and entirely supersedes the trouble of reckoning it.

5th. When the Saving Bank returns to the Depositor his 10, 25, or £50, it cannot require, and may not often be able to persuade him to invest this money in the Funds.

It will too often be squandered away in fine clothes, drunkenness, &c.; or lost by being lent to insolvent bankers, poor tradesmen, &c. Indeed the charge of management would leave very little profit to a Stockholder of 10, 25, or even £50.

6th. A very useful Table has been published by the Right Hon. G. Rose, to shew how large a sum may be saved, in a course of years, by compound interest. But how can an Ex-depositor make compound interest of his 10, 25, or £50? Can he, or the Saving Bank for him, invest his yearly Dividends *separately* in the Stocks with the small fractions it will produce?

7th. When the Ex-depositor wants a part of his 10, 25, or £50 invested in the Stocks, how

is he to obtain it? He must be at the expense of the power of attorney, and other charges. This business is transacted by the Provident Institution, without any inconvenience or expense whatever, by a transfer of the exact portion of the Stock required to be sold at the current price, either coming in from weekly Depositors, or from money remaining with the Treasurer. This accommodation is of very great importance. He receives the exact sum, and at what time he wants it, allowing the remainder of his Deposit to accumulate at compound interest.

When I first devised the project, which enables the lower class of people to invest all the small sums of money they could spare, by becoming *Proprietors*, in the public Funds, this principle appeared to myself to be manifestly so safe and so profitable to the Depositors, so free from all hazardous responsibility to the Trustees and Managers, and so extensively beneficial to all the middle and higher classes of society, that I entertained expectations that it would be generally approved and adopted, as soon as explained and clearly understood But such hopes were very unreasonable. Questions of political economy depend upon so many complicated circumstances, which are often impossible to be fore-

seen, and so many schemes of this kind are formed, which vanish like the baseless fabric of a vision, that, against them, there generally prevails a very unfavourable opinion; it can hardly be called a prejudice. Hence speculative arguments seldom obtain any attention. The approbation of eminent characters,* with which the printed PROPOSAL was honoured, had some influence. But successful experience alone could produce general conviction. To this test of truth all the intelligent part of the nation will sooner or later assent. Most fortunately, after many anxious delays and difficulties were overcome by perseverance, there was formed in Bath an association of gentlemen, eminently qualified for the purpose, by sound good sense, extensive knowledge, active beneficence, and genuine patriotism. To organize so new and so original a system, without any example to follow or imitate, in such a manner as to be free from objections, was a serious and important undertaking.

The resident Trustee and the Managers, in many long conferences, with patient consideration, deliberate attention, and excellent judgment, foreseeing and obviating difficulties,

* The Marquis of LANSDOWNE, the Right Honourable GEORGE ROSE, P. COLQUHOUN, esq; and Professor MALTHUS.

have composed the Regulations with such discernment and discretion, that no embarrassment or doubt whatever has occurred in transacting the business, since its commencement in January 1815.

The names of the FOUNDERS of the Institution are recorded in the Depositor's Book, annexed. It is proper to acknowledge, with the greatest satisfaction and gratitude, the important assistance of them all, and particularly of the two earliest friends of the Provident Institution, J. WEBBE WESTON, esq; and Col. ENYS. During the frequent, animated, and very candid debates in the Committee of 35 in 1813, they were the chief advocates of that fundamental and essential principle which was devised, to enable poor people to become *Proprietors* in the Public Funds. They were mainly conducive to its establishment in 1815, and to its successful execution.

The proposer of a favourite project is always so much suspected of partiality to it, that his own opinion has but little authority and influence with the public. Mr. WEBBE WESTON was a coadjutor of the greatest service in assisting zealously and judiciously to select and form a most respectable association of Noblemen and Gentlemen, to undertake this new project. It is highly probable that, if not aided and supported

by his very active and intelligent exertions, it would never have existed in Bath, nor, perhaps, in any other situation, upon these, which appear to be the only safe and practicable principles that have hitherto been devised.

Col. ENYS, for many years, had been so afflicted with the gout, as to resign his Commission in the Army. Apologizing to one of his former companions in arms, that he had been unable to partake with him in the dangers and duties of his profession, and explaining how assiduously he had employed his time and attention in these peaceful occupations, he received the following compliment. "I think, Colonel, that you, perhaps, have done as much service to our country, by your labours in forming, and in executing, the Provident Institution, than as if you had commanded, and led into battle, one of the grand divisions of the British army at Waterloo." How far this casual remark, suggested by politeness and friendship, in conversation, may be well founded, posterity will be able to determine. It is to be observed, that the compliment was limited to "service to *our country*." Indeed this glorious victory will probably confer blessings, not only on "our country," but on Europe, and all the civilized world, to a degree unparalleled in any age or nation.

At a time when there happily prevails through the nation so general an attention, and so many exertions, to enable the poor to better their condition, it is of great importance to give "a *right direction*" to this most laudable spirit of humanity and patriotism. In many places the Regulations of the *Saving Banks* (being those of Servants' Fund) have been adopted. Such an attempt was at first made at Bath in 1813, but relinquished as impracticable, for the reasons above explained.

As some partiality may be suspected in this disquisition, it is fortunate that an appeal can be made to other similar examples, on still higher authority. On the 22d of March 1816, there was a general meeting of "*the Saving Bank* "*established in the western part of the Metro-*"*polis.*" The Regulations had been agreed upon at several previous conferences, and printed. The Deposits were to receive interest of 4 per cent.; to be limited to £25; and the same sum of money was to be returned when required. When these Regulations had been read at this meeting, a motion was made to alter the proposed plan, and to fix on that of the Bath Provident Institution, by a gentleman* who had

* Joseph Hume, esq; who has since published an "Ac-

become thoroughly acquainted with the principles of them both, from frequent conversations on the subject with one of the Managers of the Provident Institution at Bath. On the 22d and 28th of March, the question, whether a Provident Institution or a Saving Bank should be established for Westminster, was debated for some hours by those who maintained opposite opinions in the presence of persons of the highest rank in the nation, Statesmen, and the most eminent Authors on political economy. In a letter which I had the honour to receive from the MARQUIS of LANSDOWNE, one of the Noble Presidents, dated the 29th of March, in answer to one by which I had communicated Papers, containing a statement of many of the Facts and Arguments inserted in this pamphlet, his Lordship says, "I called the attention of the Committee to "them; who met yesterday, and who are, I "think, all satisfied now, as well as myself, of "the expediency of following the example of "the Bath Institution, by making themselves "merely agents of those classes for whose "benefit it is intended, without incurring a

"count of the Provident Institution for Savings, established "in the Western part of the Metropolis," which contains very useful instruction for all *Founders* of these establishments.

" responsibility which might eventually alter " the character, and affect the permanence, of " the establishment."

This transaction is of very great importance, and should be publicly known; especially at a time when *Saving Banks*, instead of Provident Institutions, are forming themselves, generally, throughout the kingdom. Not only the principles, but nearly all the Regulations, of the Bath Provident Institution, even the *fourteenth*, which relates to the distribution of a Depositor's money after his death, (the most difficult of them all,) have been adopted in Westminster. These deliberations were then fortunately aided by the explanations of a gentleman,* of very active beneficence and extraordinary talents, who, as one of the Managers of the Provident Institution at Bath, had assisted in composing the original Regulations.

In like manner, a *Saving Bank* had been formed by the most intelligent Merchants, Bankers, &c. for the city of London, upon the same plan as that for " the Western part of the Metro- " polis." The two gentlemen above-mentioned (Mr. ELWIN and Mr. HUME) were desired to attend a Meeting of their Committee in the City.

* HASTINGS ELWIN, esq.

After a free disquisition on the comparative safety and advantages of these establishments, they rejected the plan of a *Saving Bank*, and adopted the Regulations of the *Provident Institution, unanimously.*

Hence it appears, that there are many serious, important, and, perhaps, unsurmountable objections to the principles of Saving Banks, from which Provident Institutions are entirely exempted. By the device of converting Depositors into *Proprietors* of Stock, all difficulties are completely removed. No solid objection has been suggested to this principle, nor has any difficulty been experienced in reducing it to practice. As this question has been debated deliberately, and determined unanimously, by such intelligent judges, in Bath, Westminster, and in the city of London, it may be hoped that all other towns will soon follow their example. Delays are dangerous to the Trustees who engage to restore the sum deposited. Who can determine with certainty, how soon there may be another war? Such an event would occasion a loss, as before was the case, of £11 on each £95 which had been purchased at that price.

The great importance to the nation of preserving what the poor might spare, but what

is injuriously wasted, has been explained; and schemes for this purpose have been suggested by the most eminent authors. Statesmen of the greatest ability, have attempted, in Parliament, to remedy this political disorder. But the *only* measure which has been conducive to this purpose, was the Act to encourage Friendly Societies, proposed by the Right Hon. GEORGE ROSE. By this means, the lower orders have saved something to provide comfort in time of sickness, or old age: but, undoubtedly, a very scanty and poor provision can be thus secured, to preserve themselves and their families from the miseries of indigence.

There is an excellent dissertation, by the authors of the Quarterly Review for October 1814, which explains, with much benevolence and discernment, what blessings to society might be produced by the Savings of the lower orders, if it were possible to preserve them. But they properly inquire, "*how are the Savings to be placed "out and secured? Here, indeed, we are at a "stand. There is, indeed, no way.*'

Mr. COLQUHOUN, in various publications, written with a most beneficent spirit, and excellent understanding, has been eminently useful in discovering and relieving the distresses of

indigence. But he very justly observes,* that "*the great difficulty is in the machinery. I was "very much puzzled to make up my mind as to "the sort of machinery which would make it go.*"

The Provident Institution at Bath has completely obviated these difficulties. By enabling the lower orders to invest their Savings, and become Proprietors in the Public Funds, they have successfully discovered "*the sort of ma-"chinery that will make it go.*" And the *desideratum* of security for Savings, which the Quarterly Reviewers so emphatically demand as indispensable, has been proved, by experience, to be practicable by even private societies.

The *Parish Banks* of Scotland, which were devised by the Rev. HENRY DUNCAN, and established by him at Ruthwell, near Dumfries, in 1810, are upon quite different, and much safer, principles, than the Saving Banks. His deposits are secured in one of the *Charter* Banks of Scotland. He says, (in his Essay, p. 10,) that, 'in the period of four and a half years, the 'Funds of the Institution have risen to upwards 'of £1160, which sum is now bearing interest 'at 5 per cent. in the hands of the Dumfries 'branch of the British Linen Company; that

* Parliamentary Minutes of Mendicity, p. 120.

'Bank having, with its accustomed liberality, 'granted these advantages from motives of bene-'volence.' One per cent. is allowed for expenses.

Indeed, the private banks of Scotland have generally, and honourably preserved their credit during the late fluctuation of property. They have hence obtained such implicit confidence, that I have been informed, upon the best authority, that travellers who found difficulty in passing the notes of the Bank of England, were told that "Glasgow "notes were thought safer, and liked better." If the reports which have lately prevailed, be true, that some banks in Glasgow are become insolvent, it is to be feared that the losses to the lower orders of people in and near that city, may be very extensive.

It may be doubtful, how far the three Charter Banks* of Scotland could be able to accommodate all their parish Banks, as they have done that of Ruthwell. But, if any difficulty should arise from the millions of Savings which must accu-

* *Charter Banks.*	*Funds.*
One Bank of England	£25,000,000
Three Banks of Scotland, the Royal Bank, Bank of Scotland, and the British Linen Company	3,500,000
One Irish Bank	2,000,000

* See COLQUHOUN on the Wealth, &c. of the British Empire, p. 80.

mulate in a course of years, Scotland has exactly the same means of investing them as England, in the public Funds.

The Irish Funds are secured, by an Act of the Imperial Parliament, on as firm a foundation as the English Funds, and afford the same facility of investing the Deposits in that part of the kingdom, as we possess in Great-Britain.

The *parish* Banks will be highly advantageous in Scotland, 'where they are rapidly spreading. 'The poor grasp at these benefits eagerly, and 'the best results are arising as to their morals 'and comforts.'

Provident Institutions requiring more time for the formation of new notions and habits of Saving, which were never before thought to be possible, (and indeed till *now* were quite impracticable,) may be attended with greater difficulties; but, when accomplished, will produce incomparably more benefits, not only to the poor, but to all orders of society in England.

The formation of Provident Institutions in Ireland will require the zealous, patient, and persevering exertions of all the humane and intelligent among the middle and higher classes. No words can express what numerous blessings, moral and political, and what general

happiness, would obviously ensue from such establishments in this portion of the united kingdom! By communicating the 'Proposal, 'and the Depositor's Book,' to benevolent ladies and gentlemen in different parts of that island, there is reason to believe that the good work would have already commenced in several places, but for the disturbed state of the country.

The fluctuation in the price of Stock is the *only* objection that has ever been suggested against the Proposal, to enable poor people to become *Proprietors* in the public Funds. But this objection, which is so often repeated, because there is no other, is utterly groundless. There is quite as much probability, that this change will be for the advantage of the Depositor, as to his loss. But every Depositor should be fully apprised of this circumstance, and should, at the same time, be informed, that the richest classes of society, who have the choice of placing their money on private securities, by notes, bonds, or mortgages, generally prefer the public Funds. They usually invest their money in the 3 per cents., though this Stock is liable to much greater variation in price, than the 5 per cents. Many millions of pounds are invested in the 3 per cents. Reduced, and Consols, by persons

who know as little about the fluctuation in the price of Stock, as the Depositors in the Provident Institution. They follow the opinion and advice of their friends and acquaintance, in whose knowledge and fidelity they place implicit confidence. When the lower orders of people are informed by all their kind neighbours, who understand the business, and who will take the trouble to explain to them what a valuable privilege is now provided for them, by which they can better their condition through life; it may fairly be expected, that a very large proportion of this most numerous and distressed part of the nation, especially among the young generation, will gladly embrace the inestimable blessings now placed within their reach.

There should be no speculation, whatever, in the Funds. The price of Stock always varies, according to the prevailing opinions of the most skilful men in these affairs. It is the exact *Index* of knowledge, which is the result of many complicated questions, to which the general attention is directed by the powerful motive of self-interest. Those who give advice to buy or sell, on particular occasions, according to their own notions, that the Stocks are going to rise or fall, assume to themselves superior

knowledge to the wisest in the land. All such counsellors only betray their own ignorance. The political changes of Europe are so various, and often so unexpected, that, except on very rare occasions, and for short periods of time, few persons, even Ministers, can with certainty foretell whether the Stocks will rise or fall; any more than the most skilful philosophers can say, in this climate, whether the quicksilver in the barometer will rise or fall. In confirmation of this argument, it may be observed, that the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund purchase the same quantity of Stock every transfer day through the year, though these great Officers of state must possess this knowledge in the highest degree, and ought to employ it for the benefit of the nation.

Persons who argue against the public Funds as improper to receive the Deposits of the lower order of people, on account of their fluctuation, have not taken an intelligent and comprehensive view of mankind. The spirit of gaming has existed in all ages, and in all nations, from the most barbarous to the most civilized state. The propensity of the lowest class to try their fortune in Lotteries, where the chances are constantly, manifestly, and considerably, against them, is

well known. The Stocks may be said to be a Lottery, so far as they vary, but on a moderate scale, and in which the chances of profit and loss are not against them, but fair, equal, and not ruinous; and where the loss may often be avoided, by delaying to sell Stock when low. Such is the propensity of all mankind to try their fortune, that if Government could devise a plan, by which the Depositor might receive exactly the same sum which he had invested, whenever he wanted it, there are many reasons to expect that the amount of such a Fund would be less, than in the present established Stocks, with all their fluc tuations; and consequently less beneficial to the nation.

It should be known, that, during the late debates in Parliament on the Income Tax, assurance was given, on high authority, that the Minister 'willingly consents that the Saving 'Banks, and Provident Institutions, should be 'exempted from the Income Tax; a clause will 'be brought in for this purpose.' It is very improbable, that such a tax will ever be imposed upon the Savings of the poor; a consideration, which will greatly encourage and assist their own exertions. As all these Savings are invested

in the public Funds, this exemption can be easily and completely accomplished.

The Provident Institution at Bath invests all the Deposits in the 5 per Cents., because this Stock affords the best interest, and is subject to the least fluctuation. An opinion prevails, that the 5 per cents. will be redeemed by Government, if they should rise above par; and this is adduced as an objection to employing them. But this, which is the only doubt that has ever been suggested against this Regulation, cannot be valid; because, among other considerations, it can never be suspected, that Government will alter a Fund, on which is secured the Savings of the lower classes, in such a manner, as to interrupt or disturb the proceedings of establishments, which will be so generally beneficial, and will receive the unanimous support of all orders of people. For if the present 5 per Cents. should be paid off, which is an expected measure of Finance, there could be no difficulty in establishing other 5 per Cents. for the accommodation of Provident Institutions, upon fair and equitable terms.

There is another reason for preferring 5 per Cents. to other kinds of Stock. I had proposed, as above explained, that Deposits should be in-

vested in even Pounds of Money, in order to reckon by a Table how much Stock it would purchase; what *Dividend* it would produce; what *Income* the Depositor would receive from $\frac{4}{5}$ of it; and what was the remainder of $\frac{1}{5}$ for *expenses*. The Bath Provident Institution adopted, and has hitherto acted upon, these principles. A correspondent of one of our Managers enquired, whether it would not be better to regulate our proceedings by even Pounds in Stock, instead of even Pounds in Money. This hint has suggested a very useful improvement, especially in the 5 per Cents., if $\frac{1}{6}$ instead of $\frac{1}{5}$ be reserved for management. Because the Dividend upon one Pound of Stock is one Shilling; so that five-sixths of it will be 10d. for the Depositor, and one-sixth will be 2d. for expenses. The accounts may be thus kept free from the fraction of a penny. This improvement has been adopted by the Bath Provident Institution, as will be seen by the Table of Stock now annexed to the Depositor's Book.

But there is not the same simplicity in reckoning the *Sixths* in other Stock. In the 3 per Cents., five-sixths of the yearly Dividends on each pound of Stock are 6d. for the Depositor, and one-sixth is $1\frac{1}{5}$d. for the expenses. In the 4 per Cents., five-sixths of the yearly Dividends,

are 8d. on each pound of Stock for the Depositor, and one-sixth is $1\frac{1}{3}$d. for expenses. A Table, stating these parts of the Dividends, would make even pence, in the column of five-sixths, for the Depositor's share. But in the column of one-sixth for expenses, the one-fifth or three-fifths of a penny could not be reckoned without fractions of a farthing, four times out of five. Indeed, when the one-fifth or three-fifths of a penny are taken together in an aggregate sum, such fractions are not worth notice. But that these shares of the Dividends are accurately true and just, in the three and four per Cents., very few of the Depositors would comprehend, and not all the Trustees or Managers would take the trouble to make this calculation, in order to clearly understand the business.

Whereas, in the 5 per Cents., as the yearly Dividends upon each pound of Stock are one shilling, the most illiterate Depositor, who has common sense, would know that his share of it is 10d.; a circumstance that would produce general and very beneficial confidence among all the lower orders of people.

It will be useful to consider another question. At what time ought the price of the Funds to be taken as a rule for investment in Stock; whe-

ther on the last or the next transfer day? Many advantages would arise from taking the preceding day. The Actuary might then prepare a paper (from BLEWETT'S Tables) to shew, to the eighths of a pound, from £1 to £10, or more, how much Stock a Depositor's money will produce. He might then have the choice, either to add a few shillings, so as to purchase another pound of Stock; or, he might receive back the odd money; or, at his request, it might be entered into the books, and he may be informed what addition to his deposit, on any future day, would purchase another pound of Stock. Thus, when the price of Stocks, last transfer day, was 94⅛, then £1 of Stock would cost 18s. 11d. If a Depositor bring £10, this money would purchase £10 Stock, for 9l. 9s. 3d. and leave 10s. 9d. An addition of 8s. 2d. would purchase another pound of Stock, for which he would receive an additional income of 10d. a year.

That part of the Deposit which is not invested, is a loss of interest to the Depositor. It goes to the expense of management. But when the Provident Fund is sufficient to maintain itself by the reservation of one-sixth of the Dividends, the remainder only increases the

Surplus, which is to be divided after a period of five years. Many of the earliest Depositors may not partake of this benefit, and will then be deprived of a part of their Interest for the advantage of others.

By settling the Depositor's Book at one entry, he receives much satisfaction, and is saved the loss of time by returning again and again to the Provident Office, for the entry of his Stock: And the business is in a great measure relieved from the trouble of keeping an account of odd sums, which are not invested.

When the Stock is not entered into the Depositor's Book, till after the money has been invested in the Funds, there will be, *always*, odd money, without interest to the Depositor. It can never be all converted into even Stock; because it cannot be foreseen what will be the exact sum wanted, according to the price of Stock at a future time. The variation in the price of Stock during a few days is, generally, very trifling, and in the course of a few years, the loss and gain are exactly equal.

There is another reason for entering Stock according to the last preceding transfer day. It will give an opportunity, to insert in the newspapers, a paragraph to the following purpose:

"The price of the 5 per Cent. Fund, last trans-
"fer day, was : so that will purchase one
"pound of Stock at the Provident Office, this
"Monday, between 12 and 3 o'clock."

The advantages of such intelligence are too obvious to require explanation. Such a paragraph might be published without any expense. It would not be charged as an advertisement, as may be inferred from the late Parliamentary encouragement, intending to exempt our proceedings from the expense of stamps. The Editor would gladly insert information very interesting to so many readers.

By an improved education, especially by *religious and moral instruction*, and by enabling the lower orders of people to preserve all they can spare, may we not reasonably hope, that a large proportion of the young generation may become frugal, sober, and industrious? May not the most beneficial change be gradually and progressively produced, so that there may be found, proportionably, as few paupers, beggars, and criminals,* in those parts of England, where the middle and higher exert all their benevolent influence with the lower orders of society, in twenty or thirty years, as in Scotland; or perhaps,

* See Appendix A.

in a less period of time; for parents will be gradually more and more supported, and even reformed by their children.

By long contemplating this business, I become more and more sanguine in the hopes that such a happy change may be accomplished. Much might be expected from the natural beneficence of the nation, to relieve the distressed. But self-interest is a still more powerful and more universal motive: it actuates all mankind: and it cannot be doubted, that Regulations to enable poor people to provide the means of self-support would not only be most beneficial to themselves, but (with the exception of a few individuals) the advantages to all other classes of society would manifestly be very many, and highly important. All these benefits to our country may be obtained at a little expense, and only on the commencement of a Provident Institution; and even then is not absolutely necessary. Kind, judicious, and active services, much more than money, will be required. To effectuate this great national reformation, and to obtain these inestimable blessings, the zealous exertions of all will be wanted, and should be called forth into action. May not this end be most generally and effectually accomplished by a *Circular Letter*, signed by

the chairman of each Provident Institution, and addressed to a select number of the most sensible and kind-hearted inhabitants of the district, soliciting them to use all their influence with their ignorant and improvident neighbours and acquaintance, so as to persuade them to preserve themselves and their offspring from the wretchedness of want? An example of a letter for this purpose is inserted. The facts which have been observed and recorded at Bath might be quoted; but, what would be much better, other facts should be noted, both in town and country, which all situations can abundantly supply, to shew poor people, how scanty a pittance the parish can afford to a whole family, even in sickness and old age, in comparison with the numberless comforts which they have now an opportunity to provide for themselves.

§. II.

A Circular Letter;

Proposed to be addressed, individually, to some of the most intelligent and benevolent persons, in and near Bath.

[Madam, or Sir,]

THE Provident Institution at Bath was established in January 1815. The regulations are found by experience to be practicable, and perfectly well adapted to accomplish the original Proposal. All the lower orders of people are *now* enabled to preserve what they can spare from their wages or earnings, safely and profitably.

But as the principles of the Provident Institution, which provides for them this most valuable privilege, are entirely new, it cannot be expected that the advantages, now first devised for their benefit, should be soon and generally known to be within their reach. On this occasion, persons of superior knowledge, and of benevolent disposition, have an opportunity to diffuse the

greatest blessings among all their poor neighbours and dependents, by explaining, and even by exhorting them to embrace, the kindness offered them, and to shew them in what manner they may avoid the numerous miseries of indigence, by providing for themselves, while young and in health, a comfortable support and maintenance during sickness, or want of work, and even in old age.

On this occasion, we particularly solicit the female sex to exert that beneficent and persuasive influence, which they fortunately possess in society. They are endowed with the largest share of the milk of human kindness. It should be remembered, that the first deposit made with the Provident Institution was by the advice of a lady, and that a lady was the first Trust-Depositor, who entered her name in our books for an old servant who was absent. "The Bath "Society for the Suppression of Beggars, Relief "of Distress, and Encouragement of Industry," was proposed in 1805, by the Right Hon. Lady ISABELLA KING; and the Servants' Fund, at Bath, was suggested in 1808, by the Right Hon. Lady ISABELLA DOUGLAS.

Many of the Clergy, including Dissenters, will anxiously and assiduously form and promote

Provident Institutions, not only by private advice, but by preaching and publishing sermons. By habits of industry and frugality, all religious and moral duties will be greatly improved among this numerous class of people, in such a manner as will be highly conducive to their comforts in this world, and to their happiness in a future life.

It will be unnecessary to solicit other classes of society. But it may be proper, shortly, to intimate that, among mechanics, journeymen, especially on coming out of their apprenticeships, might derive the greatest advantages from the advice of sensible and benevolent masters.

In England, there are two chief causes of indigence or pauperism. 1st. The difficulty or almost the impossibility, that poor people suffer *in* attempting to preserve what money they could spare. 2d. A thoughtless dependence on relief from the parish.

I. Calmly and attentively consider [Madam, or Sir] the difficulties and discouragement of saving a small sum of money. If it be lent to poor shopkeepers, or other low tradesmen, it is so often lost, that few dare trust them. So many Banks, even some of the highest credit, have failed, as greatly to distress all, particularly

the lower orders. But the mischief occasioned by these failures is twenty times greater than the loss of the money. They have destroyed all confidence, so that a poor man can form no attempt, and even no hope, to preserve what he might save by lending it to others. If £10 or £20 be hoarded up at home, the family is in constant alarm of being robbed, and even murdered, of which every one can quote frightful instances. Beset on all sides with so many difficulties and dangers, the poor man is easily persuaded by his companions, as well as by his own inclination, to squander away all his store in drunkenness, fine clothes, or some other kind of extravagance, very injuriously to himself and his family. From all these considerations, it is manifest, that the lower orders deserve not our blame, but our pity.

As few in the higher ranks of life are fully aware of the improvidence and mismanagement of the poor, it may be useful to state one instance, among many that might be produced. CHAS. CHILSET, in Gibbs's Court, twenty-one years old, earns 20s. a week in summer, as a journeyman tiler, and 40s. a week in winter, as a chairman. He was married seven months ago, and hires a furnished room at 4s. a week. The

same room, if furnished by himself, he might have hired for 2s. a week.

Better furniture than he hires, he might have purchased for 7l. or 8l.,* which would have saved him the expense of 2s. a week, or 5 guineas a year. While unmarried, he might have maintained himself comfortably with 10s. a week, so as to have spared 30s. a week in winter, which would be 9l. in six weeks. Hence, it appears, that CHARLES CHILSET pays 75 per cent. every year for his furniture. If he had but had the prudence to save 7l. 17s. 4d. before marriage, to buy furniture for himself, and if he would regularly deposit with the Provident Institution this 5 guineas a year only, or 1l. every tenth week, for a few years; he might have provided for himself and family innumerable comforts

	£.	s.	d.
* A bed, bedstead, pillow, 2 sheets, 2 blankets, 1 quilt	6	0	0
Two chairs	0	6	0
One table	0	12	0
One tea-kettle	0	3	0
Tongs, fire-shovel, poker, and fender	0	9	0
One tea-pot, two cups, and two saucers	0	2	6
One saucepan, 2s.; four plates, 10d.; two small dishes, 2s.	0	4	10
	7	17	4

through life, which otherwise they will never enjoy. This manifest folly and indiscretion, when first known, seemed to be very extraordinary indeed. But this is by no means the case. Mr. PAGE, clerk to the magistrates, who has much official intercourse with the poor, observed, that he "knew forty families, who pay 4s. "or 4s. 6d. a week, for ready-furnished rooms, "who might have them for 2s. if furnished by "themselves."

II. An ignorant and thoughtless dependence on the parish, for support, is a principal cause of indigence. To obtain an accurate statement of facts, relative to this most interesting subject, the following questions were proposed to Mr. PERCIVAL, overseer of the parish of Walcot, for fifteen years, to which his answers are subjoined.

Q. 1. What allowance is given to the paupers in the parish of Walcot?

A. 1. 'There are 400 families who receive 'weekly pay, in the following proportions.

		s.	*d.*
9	.... at	6	0
25	.....	5	0
35	....	4	0
6	....	3	6

		s.	d.
86	..... at	3	0
141	.....	2	6
69	.....	2	0
29	.....	1	6
400			

Q. 2. What number of paupers are admitted into the poor-house, and in what circumstances?

A. 2. 'On an average 100 men, women, and 'children, principally the aged and the impo-'tent, whose labour is done, and deserted 'children; except cases of emergency, as sud-'den illness and accidents, only for a time.'

Q. 3. Do any, and how many, families hire a furnished room at 4s. or 4s. 6d., who, if furnished by themselves, might have it for 2s. a week?

A. 3. 'A great many hire furnished rooms at '3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. per week, which, if the furni-'ture was their own, might be rented for 2s. or 3s.'

Q. 4. Do any, and what number of, journey-men taylors, shoemakers, masons, carpenters, chairmen, &c. save any part of what they earn, so as to maintain themselves when sick, or out of work?

A. 4. 'The major part belong to benefit so-'cieties; they pay into the hand of the treasurer

'— per month; and, when sick, have an allow-
'ance from the box; but if there be three or
'four children, the parish afford a little tempo-
'rary relief, in addition to the club; but if out
'of employ, the club allow nothing; of course
'the parish more. Of those who are not in be-
'nefit societies, very few, if *any*, save *any* part
'of their earnings against sickness, or want of
'work; it follows, the parish must be resorted to.
'Such applications are *numerous indeed.*'

Q. 5. After the decease of a member of a Benefit Society, money is given for a funeral, and to the widow. Does this money keep the family from the parish, and for how many weeks?

A. 5. 'Scarcely one week.'

These highly interesting and instructive facts were communicated by the Overseer of the largest parish in Bath. They might, probably, be confirmed by the testimony of all the Overseers in England, with certain variations arising from different situations and circumstances. From facts thus plainly ascertained, which every one has an opportunity to verify in his own neighbourhood, and which are so highly interesting to the whole nation, may be deduced the following

Remarks.

1. Hence, it manifestly appears, that the lower orders are well disposed to provide for their own maintenance. For, of the paupers, "the major part belong to Benefit Societies." This has been the only means in their power to preserve any savings. It was a wise Act of Parliament to encourage them; otherwise, the poor would have preserved no savings whatever.

2. As among the most numerous class of our population, "very few, if *any*, save *any* part of "their earnings against sickness, or want of "work," we may clearly understand, why our paupers are so many, and so wretched. It is manifest, that from the same cause may be derived the great number of our beggars, and robbers. Many, utterly destitute of support, are ashamed to apply to the parish for relief, from a consciousness, that their wants proceed entirely from their own extravagance and idleness; in which case, the Benefit Societies very properly refuse assistance. Hunger compels them to steal, and to commit many other crimes.

3. The poor should be fully informed, how scanty a pittance is allowed by the parish, compared with the plentiful maintenance, and many

comforts, which all healthy persons can now provide for themselves, by means of the Provident Institution. Not one poor family in forty-four receives so much as 6s., and not one family in five receives more than 3s. a week from the parish.

4. People of this class, who have no means to preserve what money they might spare, very generally acquire the most pernicious habits of drunkenness.* Even a common labourer has lately earned 15s. a week. While single, 10s. is quite sufficient for his maintenance in food, lodging, and clothes, so that he has had 5s. to spare,

* A false and very injurious notion generally prevails, that hard labour requires the support of much strong beer. It, indeed, produces some present gratification, but any degree of intoxication is injurious to health. In most cases, it is followed by debility of body, and of mind; and, if habitual, greatly embitters, and generally shortens, life, being an highly pernicious slow poison, when taken in a large quantity. Few occasions require greater exertion, and are attended with greater fatigue, than what a gentleman's servant undergoes, who rides post-horses during a long journey, night and day, along with his master's carriage: this was lately the custom. Some of these servants ate plentifully, and drink beer, wine, and spirits freely; others supported themselves chiefly upon tea, and a low diet. It has been observed, that the former usually suffered more from such severe service, than the latter. In other countries, the strongest and healthiest men are always perfectly sober.

which has been generally spent at the alehouse. A journeyman mason, carpenter, &c. earns a guinea, so as to keep him drinking Sunday and Monday, which is hence nicknamed "Saint" Monday. A dexterous mechanic can earn two guineas a week, so that he generally remains half the week in a state of intoxication; and his wife and children frequently join the drunken party at the public-house. The family of the dexterous shoemaker, who can earn two guineas a

It has been well observed, that "the distillation of spirituous liquors is the worst present, which art ever made to mankind." Physicians universally condemn the pernicious habit of drinking drams. Even the beverage of brandy and water, which, about half a century ago, generally prevailed among all ranks of people, has been found to produce highly injurious effects upon the constitution. Spirituous liquors should never be drank by persons in health, nor as a remedy, except by medical advice, and for a limited time and quantity. No motive for increasing the revenue, nor for encouragement to agriculture, should prevail on Government to promote the consumption of spirits, by making them cheap. All private stills ought to be effectually suppressed. Even porter, ale, and strong beer, should never be drank in such a quantity, as to produce intoxication. But every mechanic and peasant should provide at home some beer of moderate strength, and quite fresh, so as to supply a wholesome beverage, which would, by habit, soon become more palatable, and afford more refreshment, than any other, so as to make home comfortable, and, surrounded with his family, more agreeable than the alehouse.

week, is not more comfortable than that of the labourer, who only earns 15s.; but, on the contrary, more ragged, dirty, and destitute of the means of self-support in sickness, or want of work. For the reformation of this general grievance, a solid foundation is laid by the Provident Institution. But to obtain the benefits that may be derived from it, we earnestly entreat the assistance of every one who has a clear head, and kind heart, to promote these measures, not only among the poor, but among all his acquaintance who have received a better education, so as to induce them to exert whatever influence they possess, to preserve the rising generation from the miseries inseparable from indigence.

Among many other methods of serving the lower orders, we request you [Madam, or Sir] to persuade the labourer, while single, and for some time after marriage to an industrious wife, to form a resolution for himself to deposit £1 every month; the journeyman mason, carpenter, gardener, &c. every fortnight or three weeks; and the dexterous mechanic or chairman every week. There is one short rule, suggested by prudence and good sense, which ought to be observed in all cases: *After*

a comfortable allowance for food, lodging, and clothes, according to what he has been accustomed, or in future can expect, to possess, the remainder of his earnings ought to be regularly deposited with the Provident Institution.

Let no opportunity be lost to persuade every man and woman, with whom you are acquainted, to preserve money to purchase furniture before marriage. You will fully explain to them all, that the security is the best in England, and indeed the best in the world; that the money deposited is, when sold out, sometimes a little more or less than the sum invested, according to the price of Stocks, but that the yearly income will always continue the same, as long as it remains in the Funds.

****, *Chairman.*

Provident Office.

§. III. *The Depositor's Book.*

REGULATIONS

OF THE

PROVIDENT INSTITUTION,

Established at BATH, January 1815.

PATRON,

THE MOST NOBLE

The MARQUIS of LANSDOWNE, &c. &c.

TRUSTEES:

Lord John Thynne, M.P.
The Right Hon. G. Rose, M. P.
Sir Robert Wilmot, Bart.
Sir J. C. Hippisley, Bt. M.P.
Colonel Gore Langton, M.P.
John Webbe Weston, Esq.
Lieut.-Colonel Houlton,
Rev. Sir Henry Rivers, Bart.

MANAGERS:

The Mayor of Bath,

John Haygarth, M.D. F.R.S.
John Enys, Esq;
Charles Dumbleton, Esq;
John Ensor, Esq;
Thomas Lechmere, Esq;
Charles Conolly, Esq;
J. S. Duncan, Esq;
William Lutwyche, Esq;
Thomas Leir, Esq;
Joshua Uhthoff, Esq;
Rev. J. J. Conybeare, A.M.
Lieut.-Colonel Tufnell,
D. B. Payne, Esq;
John Wiltshire, Esq;
Colonel J. Shaw,
Colonel Thomas Shaw,
Henry Wansey, Esq;
Mr. William Davis,
Rev. M. Mapletoft, B. D.
Thomas Smith Barwell, Esq;
George Edward Allen, Esq;
Hastings Elwin, Esq;
John Walmesley, Esq;
Wyndham Goodden, Esq;
John Long, Esq;
James Fayting Gyles, Esq;
John Ford, Esq;
W. Ellice, Esq;
Henry Deacon, Esq;
Rev. John Methuen Rogers, LL.B

Treasurer, *Lieut.-Col. Tufnell.*

Actuary, *Mr. Carpenter, 6, Trim-Street.*

REGULATIONS.

First. THE Provident Institution is formed for the purpose of affording a secure investment, to industrious persons of the lower orders, or others, for such sums of money as they may be able to deposit therein.

Second. Deposits of not less than one shilling will be received, but not entitled to interest till the sum can purchase one pound of Stock ;* nor will Interest be paid on any fractional parts of a pound sterling.

Third. All deposits will be invested in Government Five per Cent. Stock, or other Go-

* *6th of June*, 1816.

At a meeting of the Trustees and Managers of the Provident Institution, after due notice,

Resolved, That the Deposits shall bear interest, when they shall respectively amount to a sum sufficient to purchase One Pound Stock, in lieu of waiting till they amount to twenty shillings, as expressed in the second Regulation.

That, in future, one-sixth be deducted from the Dividends of the Depositors, in lieu of one-fifth, as expressed in the fifth Regulation.

That all fractions of a penny, in the purchase and sale of Stock, and in the entries in the different accounts, be taken or omitted in favour of the reserved Fund.

vernment securities, in the names of three of the Trustees.

Fourth. All depositors of one or more pounds of Stock are to be proportionate proprietors of the Stock invested under the trust and management of the Institution; and shall receive the interest thereof on the first Monday after the 20th of January, and the five following days, or on any subsequent Monday.

Fifth. This Institution being established upon principles of self-support, the Interest paid to the Proprietor of Stock shall be only five-sixths of that dividend which his deposits may produce in the Funds, one-sixth being retained to pay the necessary expenses of the Institution; but as, in the first instance, this deduction will be insufficient to meet the expenses of establishing the Institution, donations will be received from those desirous of promoting it.

Sixth. Should any surplus remain of the one-sixth of the interest so reserved, after paying the necessary expenses, such surplus shall, at the end of five years, be divided among the then existing proprietors, according to their respective funded property, and the length of time they may have been proprietors.

Seventh. The Trustees or Managers of this Institution shall never receive any emolument whatever therefrom; nor shall they be responsible for any pecuniary losses. But security will be required from the Treasurer and Actuary, to obviate any loss from them.

Eighth. The Actuary, in the name of the Institution, is to receive such deposits, under £20, as may be offered, which he shall enter into his deposit-book in the presence of the depositor; and at the same time give him a book with a similar entry therein; which book must be brought to the Actuary whenever any further sum shall be deposited, or any dividend received, that the transaction may be entered therein.

Ninth. Any person desirous of depositing with the Institution at any one time £20, or more, may pay it to the Treasurer, on any day between ten and three, at the Bladud Bank, Bath; and on producing his voucher to the Actuary at the Provident Office, and subscribing to the Regulations there, such person shall have due credit for the same in the books of the Institution.

Tenth. When the small sums deposited with the Actuary by any individual can purchase one

pound of Stock, or a larger sum be paid in at once, the depositor's book must be produced to the Manager or Managers on that day, or at their next weekly meeting on Mondays, from twelve to three, that the same may be checked, for the greater security of all parties.

Eleventh. A Table (No. I.) shall be given to each person on becoming a depositor; by which may be seen the exact sum of Five per Cent. Stock which his money will purchase at any even given price. And in another Table (No. III.) will be shewn the yearly dividend which will accrue therefrom; and the exact amount to be annually received by the Proprietor, after the one-sixth has been deducted from the investment and sale of Stock, receipt of dividends, and other necessary attendant expenses.

Twelfth. On giving notice to the Actuary on the first Monday in the month, a proprietor may have the whole or any part of his Stock sold; and after twenty-eight days from such notice, on any subsequent Monday, he shall receive in Bank of England Notes the full amount of the then current price of such Stock, together with the Interest due to the last half-year, free of all expense.

Thirteenth. No share or deposit placed with this Institution shall be transferable; nor shall any individual, other than the persons described in these Regulations, or persons by them legally authorised, be entitled to payment of any principal or interest.

Fourteenth. On the death of a depositor, if no probate of the will, or letters of administration of the effects, shall be produced to the Trustees and Managers at one of their monthly meetings,* to shew to whom the Stock or money to which such depositor was entitled is to be paid; and such Stock or money shall exceed the sum of Ten Pounds; then, the Stock and money to which he was entitled shall, within twelve months after his decease, be paid and divided to and amongst his wife and children, or his next of kin, as the case may be, according to the rules and regulations of the Statute of Distribution. But if such Stock or money shall not exceed the sum of Ten Pounds, then the same shall be divided amongst the next of kin, or other relations, of the deceased depositor, in such shares and proportions as the Trustees and Managers shall think fit. But if no claim or demand on the part of either the wife, or children, or the

* The second Monday in each month.

next of kin, of such Depositor, shall be made to the Trustees and Managers for or in respect of such Stock or money, (whether the same shall exceed the sum of Ten Pounds or not,) before the expiration of seven years from the death of such depositor, the Stock and money so unclaimed shall be absolutely vested in the Trustees, and be applied by them for the benefit of the remaining proprietors. But if different persons shall claim to be entitled to receive such Stock or money, or if any doubts shall arise as to whom the same is payable, it shall always be decided by his Majesty's Attorney-General for the time being; whose opinion, on the statement of the facts by the Actuary to the Institution, shall be binding and conclusive on all the parties interested, and the monies arising from the sale of the Stock shall be paid to the person or persons he thinks entitled to the same, deducting the costs and charges of such opinion; and after payment thereof in the manner so pointed out, the Trustees shall be for ever released, discharged, and wholly exonerated from any claim or demand on them, or any of them, for or in respect to such Stock or money, or the payment thereof.

Fifteenth. A copy of these Regulations shall be given to each depositor, who shall sign

his name or mark to the original Regulations at the Provident Office, in order to shew his assent and agreement to abide by them; and no money shall be received till the person bringing such money has so expressed his approbation of them.

Sixteenth. The Trustees and Managers shall at any time be at liberty to return the amount of Deposits or Stock of any or of all the Depositors or Proprietors, on giving them six months notice of such being their intention.

Seventeenth. The Trustees and Managers, of whom two Trustees and seven Managers shall be a quorum, are empowered to , make such further Regulations as they may think necessary for carrying on the business of the Institution; provided always that such Regulations shall in no instance militate against the intention and spirit of the foregoing Regulations.

Eighteenth. The Institution shall always be under the direction of from six to eight Trustees, and from fifteen to thirty-one Managers; of whom the Mayor of Bath for the time being shall be requested to be one.

Nineteenth. When the number of the Trustees is below six, or of the Managers is below fifteen, the vacancy or vacancies shall be filled up, by the appointment of the present Trustees and

Managers, or their successors, at the next general meeting.

Twentieth. No person, for the first two years at least, to be appointed Trustee or Manager, who does not testify his approbation of the establishment by a donation of five pounds, or upwards. But any person who subscribes to such amount shall be considered a Member of the Institution, and have the right of voting at the annual and general meetings.

Abstract of the First additional Regulation.

Deposits will be received on the part of any infirm person, infant, or servant, unable to attend, provided the person depositing in their behalf shall sign the roll containing the Regulations under which such deposit shall be received; but no person on whose behalf such deposit has been made, shall have any controul over the same, till he has either in person, or by letter of attorney, signed the Rules and Regulations of the Society: in the mean time all the proportionable interest on such deposits shall continue to accumulate for the benefit of himself or his representatives.

I.

A TABLE, shewing the Price of One Pound Stock, 5 per Cent.

When the Stock is at	The Price of One Pound in Money is		When the Stock is at	The Price of One Pound in Money is	
	s.	*d.*		*s.*	*d.*
80	16	0	90	18	0
81	16	3	91	18	3
82	16	5	92	18	5
83	16	8	93	18	8
84	16	10	94	18	10
85	17	0	95	19	0
86	17	3	96	19	3
87	17	5	97	19	5
88	17	8	98	19	8
89	17	10	99	19	10

II.

A TABLE, shewing the Amount of WEEKLY SAVINGS, at compound Interest at 4 per Cent.

A Weekly Saving of	PRODUCE In One Year.	In Three Years.	In Five Years.	In Seven Years.
One Shilling,	£2 12 0	£8 2 3	£14 1 7	£20 10 8
Two Shillings,	5 4 0	16 4 8	25 2 3	41 1 5
Three Shillings,	7 16 0	24 7 0	42 4 10	61 12 1
Four Shillings,	10 8 0	32 9 4	56 6 6	82 2 10
Five Shillings,	13 0 0	40 11 8	70 8 1	102 13 6
Six Shillings,	15 12 0	48 14 0	84 9 9	123 4 2
Seven Shillings,	18 4 0	56 16 5	98 11 3	143 14 11
Eight Shillings,	20 16 0	64 18 8	112 13 0	164 5 7
Nine Shillings,	23 8 0	72 1 0	126 14 6	184 16 3
Ten Shillings,	26 0 0	81 3 5	140 16 2	205 7 0
One Pound,	52 0 0	162 6 10	281 12 5	410 14 0

N.B. As the Depositor's Dividends are added to his Deposits, which are not invested in the Funds till they will purchase £1 Stock, it may be necessary for him occasionally to add a few Shillings, in order to have the full benefit of *compound* Interest.

III.

TABLE, shewing the DIVIDEND accruing to Depositors, and the Amount of the One-Sixth deducted.

5 per Cent. Stock.	Yearly Dividend.		One-Sixth reserved.			Amount to be paid to Depositors.		
£.	£.	s.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	10
2	0	2	0	0	4	0	1	8
3	0	3	0	0	6	0	2	6
4	0	4	0	0	8	0	3	4
5	0	5	0	0	10	0	4	10
6	0	6	0	1	0	0	5	0
7	0	7	0	1	2	0	5	10
8	0	8	0	1	4	0	6	8
9	0	9	0	1	6	0	7	6
10	0	10	0	1	8	0	8	4
20	1	0	0	3	4	0	16	8
30	1	10	0	5	0	1	5	0
40	2	0	0	6	8	1	13	4
50	2	10	0	8	4	2	1	8
60	3	0	0	10	0	2	10	0
70	3	10	0	11	8	2	18	4
80	4	0	0	13	4	3	6	8
90	4	10	0	15	0	3	15	0
100	5	0	0	16	8	4	3	4
200	10	0	1	13	4	8	6	8
300	15	0	2	10	0	12	10	0
400	20	0	3	6	8	16	13	4
500	25	0	4	3	4	20	16	8
600	30	0	5	0	0	25	0	0
700	35	0	5	16	8	29	3	4
800	40	0	6	13	4	33	6	8
900	45	0	7	10	0	37	10	0
1000	50	0	8	6	8	41	13	4

DEPOSITOR's LEDGER.

Date.	Deposits and Repayment.				Manager's Signature.	Amount of Stock.	Price of Stock.
	Words.	Figures.				£	
		£.	s.	d.			

§ IV.—*The By-Laws.*

1. THE By-Laws now read and adopted are to be considered the standing By-Laws of the Institution, and no regulation or by-law shall be made, or altered, but by a general meeting, to consist of two Trustees and seven Managers at least, to be called for that express purpose at the request of not less than five Managers; of which ten days notice, specifying the objeet of such meeting, shall be given. Trustees unable to attend may give their vote in writing, or by proxy, on all occasions; such proxy to be considered as a personal attendance. And when any question shall arise, affecting the responsibility or security of the Trustees, the same shall not be determined but with the consent of a majority of the Trustees present, in person or by proxy. The Trustees to be considered as members of all committees; and to be furnished yearly with a general abstract of the accounts, and

the amount of the Stock standing in their respective names.

2. The amount of each deposit is to be credited to the depositor, in Stock, at the price of the next transfer-day after the day on which the deposit shall be made; but all deposits made during the week shall be considered as made on the next following Monday, when the deposit is in fact completed, by the signature of the attending Manager. And all deposits made during the time the Bank books are shut, shall be credited in Stock at the price of the first public transfer-day after the opening. Deposits withdrawn shall be calculated at the price of the first public transfer day, after the Monday succeeding the day on which the notice shall have been given; and the money shall be paid at the expiration of twenty-eight days from such notice, except when the Bank books are shut, when the money shall be paid on the first Monday after the first public transfer day, provided twenty-eight days shall have elapsed from the date of the notice.

3. No Stock to be sold, but on the requisition of five managers; nor any money drawn from the Treasurer, but by the signature of three Managers.

4. That the fractional parts of a penny be omitted at all entries in all the books of the Institution.

5. All Dividends due and payable to the depositors in the month of January, and unclaimed on the last public transfer-day, before the closing of the Bank books at Midsummer, shall be considered as new deposits, and when the same shall amount to twenty shillings, shall be credited to the depositors accordingly, at the price of that day.

6. In all cases where application shall be made to receive money from this Institution, the production of the depositor's books, and the receipt in writing of the party, shall be indispensably required; and when any doubt shall arise respecting the identity of the party applying on his own behalf, or of the truth of his representation when applying on behalf of another, the same shall be determined to the satisfaction of the Managers present at the time of application, by the certificate of one of the Managers, or of the officiating Minister or Churchwardens of the parish where the depositor shall actually reside. And whenever the sum to be received on behalf of another shall

exceed £50, a power of attorney shall be indispensably required.

7. A meeting of the Trustees and Managers shall be held on the second Monday in every month, who are

To receive the reports of committees;

To ascertain the amount of deposits received and invested, or withdrawn, during the preceding month, and the price of Stock purchased or sold, and enter the same respectively on the minutes;

To examine the Treasurer's and Actuary's books, and enter on the minutes the balances in hand;

To proceed in the discussion and arrangement of any business that may be brought before them; and provided two Trustees and seven Managers shall be present, their acts shall be deemed the acts of the whole board of Trustees and Managers, except as to the making or altering any regulation or by-law.

The Chairman to see the minutes properly entered, and to have the casting vote.

8. Two Managers to attend at the Office by rotation, from 12 to 3 every Monday, who are

To compare the entries of the day in the Actuary's book with those in the depositor's, and check the same by one of their signatures, and by inserting in words the number of pounds sterling; and to see that corresponding entries are made in the Manager's Journal. In which also are to be inserted the name, number of book, and amount of all notices for withdrawing deposits.

At the hour of three o'clock, to examine the Actuary's petty cash-book, take charge of all money deposited, and pay the same to the Treasurer.

To give orders to the Treasurer for the purchase of Stock, always purchasing an even quantity, and leaving about £50 and the odd money in the Treasurer's hands.

9. The annual meeting shall be held on the fourth Monday in January in every year, and consist of the Trustees and Managers: when the books shall be examined; the several amounts of the Government Securities; the balance in the Treasurer's hands; the dividends to be paid; the reserved one-sixth of the dividends; deposits received and withdrawn during the preceding year; donations received, and

money expended, shall be ascertained and stated, and entered on the minutes; and the Treasurer and Actuary for the ensuing year appointed.

10. That a permanent Committee of Accounts shall be appointed at the annual meeting, to consist of five Managers, with liberty to call in the assistance of other Managers, as they may find expedient; whose duty it shall be to see that the books of the Institution are properly kept; the deposits duly credited in Stock, at the proper price, and when withdrawn duly paid; the dividends rightly calculated, and the accounts fairly stated; and to report their proceedings to each monthly meeting.

11. That a Committee of Correspondence be appointed at the annual meeting, to consist of five members, who shall be charged with all the communications held by the Institution with individuals, or with other societies; and report their proceedings at every monthly meeting.

12. The Treasurer is to keep correct accounts of all monies received and paid, and all sales and purchases of Stock and Government Securities, and to furnish the price of Stock of each day, when required; to obtain the necessary powers for sale of Stock and receipt of Dividends; and to conduct the

business committed to him, as he shall be directed by the Trustees and Managers; and to give security in £1000.

13. The Actuary is to attend at the Office of the Institution every Monday from twelve to three, to receive deposits of not less than one shilling, or more than £20; to pay the dividends; and transact the ordinary business of the Institution, under the direction of the Managers; to keep correct accounts of all monies paid and received by him; and to give security in the sum of £100.

§. V.

Brief Account of the Mode of transacting the Business of the PROVIDENT INSTITUTION *at* BATH.

THE following concise statement of the Mode of transacting the Business of the Provident Institution at Bath may be found useful to those, who are disposed to establish similar Institutions in other places; and with the Regulations, and By-Laws, already in print, form a complete account of its principles and practice.

Deposits.

A roll of parchment, with a 35s. stamp, being prepared, by having the Rules of the Institution and the Declaration A.* written thereon, the depositor is required to sign the same, as an evidence of his consent to the terms on which his deposit is received. The Actuary then enters the amount received in the Depositor's Ledger, No. I.,† and makes a similar entry in a Depositor's

* See p. 78. † See p. 80.

Book, No. II.* both of which are signed by the Manager in attendance, and the Depositor's Book given to the Depositor, having been previously marked with a number corresponding to that of the page of the Office Ledger, which is allotted entirely to the entry of his account. The deposit is then completed, and the actual attendance of the Depositor is unnecessary for the making future deposits; but, in all transactions, the production of the Depositor's Book is indispensable.

Deposits under the First Additional Regulation.

Should any person wish to deposit a sum of money on behalf of another, who is unable to attend, he then signs a separate roll of parchment, containing the Declaration B.† and also, in three columns, the name and description of the party actually depositing the sum deposited, and the name of the party for whose benefit the deposit is made. The former of whom has no farther interest or controul over the money so deposited; but the latter may obtain the disposition of it, by signing the Regulations; and in the mean time, it accumulates for his benefit.

* Page 80. † Page 79.

Managers.

In order to keep a check on the Actuary's entries in the Office Ledger, a Book is kept by the Manager in attendance, called the *Manager's Journal*, in the form No. III.,* in which he enters the number and amount of each deposit made or withdrawn, and all notices to withdraw; and at the close of the day's work, he deposits with the Treasurer or Banker, the amount received, together with an order for the purchase of as much Stock as will leave the usual balance only in the Treasurer's hands, £50; or more, if many notices should be given to withdraw. This comprises the whole duty of the attending Manager.

Committee of Accounts.

But as there is a farther operation to be performed, of crediting to each depositor as many even pounds Stock as his deposits will purchase, the Committee of Accounts meet, for a few minutes, once a week, generally a little earlier than the office hour, on the day fixed for receiving deposits; and having received from the Treasurer the Bank receipt of the purchase of Stock made by the deposits of the preceding

* Page 81.

office day; or, if no purchase shall have been made, then the price of Stock of that day; they proceed to examine the account of each Depositor, who made any deposit on the preceding office day; and if the amount of his deposits in hand are sufficient to purchase one or more pound Stock, at the price so given to them; they calculate, by the printed and published Tables, the amount in even pounds of Stock, and carry down the balance of cash (if any) to his credit. And having gone through all the entries, they then turn to the

Account of Stock credited to the Depositor, No. IV.,* in which they enter the aggregate amount of the Stock they have just passed to each man's credit in one sum, together with the rate, and the amount of its value; and as they also enter, in another column, the amount of the money actually deposited, it is evident, that the differences between the value of the Stock credited, and the money deposited, will be the amount of the cash balances in hand. They then turn to the

Trustees' Stock Account, No. V.;† and enter, from the Bank receipt, the amount of Stock

* Page 82. † Page 84.

actually purchased, its rate and cost; and thus, by comparing the different columns of their two last accounts, it may be instantly ascertained, whenever it may be required, what is the amount of Stock credited to the Depositors; what is the amount of Stock standing in the name of the Trustees, to answer it; and what is the aggregate amount of the cash balances on the Depositors' accounts.

These are all the Books and accounts necessary for the current business of the Institution: in the conduct of which, the only part approaching to trouble is the inspecting each Depositor's Account, and crediting his Stock. But the printed Tables give such ready assistance, that unless the Deposits are unusually numerous, the Committee will probably find, that, by meeting half an hour before the opening of the office for admission of Depositors, the whole business of the preceding week may be completely arranged, the notices to withdraw, which fall due, provided for, and the books brought up.

Dividends.

At the close of every half-year, it will be necessary to make out a *Dividend Account*, No.

VI. ;* and as every Depositor's Account consists of even pounds of Stock, on which the deduction of one-sixth from each pound being 2d. leaves 10d. to the Depositor for every pound of Stock, the list may be made out by any body who can repeat the Pence Table. This operation is greatly facilitated by the improvement of deducting one-sixth instead of one-fifth, and investing even pounds of Stock instead of even pounds of money. At the close of every year, this dividend list will be completed by the insertion of the second dividend: All Dividends unclaimed on the last Transfer day before the closing of the Bank books in June, are carried to their respective accounts as new Deposits; and those which will purchase £1 Stock, credited in Stock to the Depositor at the price of such last Transfer day. Once a year it will be necessary to make up an account of the one-sixth deducted, No. VII.,† which will consist of very few items.

Treasurer.

The Treasurer's Books shew the general receipt and payments of the Institution; and it will be necessary that he keep a separate book for the Donation Fund, from which the whole

* Page 86. † P. 88.

expenses of the first year must necessarily be defrayed; and to which again the small one-sixth of the Dividend of the first year, and the larger one-sixth of the subsequent years will in due course be carried in aid.

Observations.

It may not be superfluous to observe here, that the first expenses, as well as the annual disbursements, may be reduced to so small a sum, as to require but little pecuniary assistance from the well-wishers to this interesting and important System. The accounts, as before stated, are so simple, and the entries so few, that there is hardly any decent person in a town or village, who is not competent to the duties of the Actuary. The attending Manager has only to receive the deposits, and to pay the monies withdrawn, according to the instructions he will have received from the Superintending Committee: And the Committee themselves will find that a weekly attendance of half an hour will be more than sufficient for all their business. So that the only expense will be the salary to the Actuary, which here is £21 to a regular Accountant and respectable housekeeper; to whom is also paid a like sum for office rent. Which last expense may, in general, be avoided, by obtaining the use of

some public building in the town, as is done at Southampton; and the Actuary's salary may, in most country towns, be reduced much below the sum above-mentioned.

It has been thought very desirable, that the Depositors should actually see the Managers in attendance; as a more favourable impression is produced on their minds, by witnessing the disinterested attention of their superiors, than by communicating only with the Actuary.

It is also expedient, that the names of the Depositors, and the extent of their deposits, should not be made public; since many would be prevented, by obvious reasons, from lodging their savings, if their families, neighbours, or employers, could obtain a knowledge of the fact or amount.

It has been the practice with the Bath Institution, for the Committee to report a state of the Institution, something in the nature of a balance sheet, to every monthly meeting. And it is believed, that it is productive of much good, by shewing the whole Board of Managers the progress of the Institution, and assuring the Trustees of the state of its funds.

It is to be remembered, that all fractions of a penny are omitted in the entries in the different

Books of Account, and go to increase the Reserved Fund.

The above details are all that have been found necessary here; and they are communicated as sufficient for the purpose of carrying on the business of a Provident Institution: in which it is essentially necessary, that the accounts should be so simple, that no Gentleman may be deterred from undertaking the situation of Manager, or any Actuary require a high salary on account of the trouble of keeping them; and at the same time, that there should be a sufficient check, and a frequent inspection, to satisfy the Trustees, as well as the Depositors, that their interests are placed beyond the reach of injury, from fraud, or negligence.

(A.) Declaration.

We the undersigned do each agree to the above Rules and Regulations, and deposit our money with the Institution, to be laid out, kept, and paid, by the Trustees thereof, according to the same. And we do bind ourselves and our respective executors, administrators, and assigns, to the true and faithful performance of all the said rules and regulations.

(B.) Declaration to be signed by Depositors, under the First Additional Regulation.

We whose names are hereunto set and subscribed, do severally and respectively declare, that we have respectively lodged and deposited in the hands of the Trustees of the Provident Institution the several sums of money set opposite our respective names, for the benefit of the several persons we have hereunder respectively named and described, and whose names are also set opposite to our respective names. And we have deposited such sums of money under and subject to all and singular the Rules, Regulations, and Conditions above written; to the intent and purpose, that the several persons for whose benefit such monies are so respectively lodged and deposited, shall have no power or controul over the same, nor any claim or interest therein, at law or in equity, until they shall have respectively conformed to the several Rules and Regulations of the said Provident Institution in that behalf, and shall have subscribed their names to the agreement, declaring that they do so conform to all the said Rules and Regulations.

Depositor's Ledger. *No.* I.

No. 55. JOHN KING, servant with A. B. Queen-square.

Date.	Deposits & Repayments. (Words.)	(Figures.) £.	s.	d.	Manager's Signature.	Amount of Stock. £	Price of Stock.
July 8.	Five	5	0	0	H. E.		
	Invested	4	15	0	———	5 ———	95
		0	5	0			
July 15.	Three	3	0	0	H. E.		
		3	5	0			
	Invested	2	17	0	———	3 ———	95
		0	8	0		8	
July 22.	Sold	0	19	0		1	95
		1	7	0		7	
	Paid	0	10	0			
		0	17	0			

On the 8th of July, J. K. deposited 5l. and the price on the first subsequent Transfer day being 95, the greatest number of pounds of Stock which that sum would purchase being 5, that quantity of Stock is placed to his credit, and 4l. 15s., its cost, is charged to him as invested in its purchase; and the cash balance, 5s., remains to his credit. On a subsequent day, 22d July, he withdrew 10s., and having only a cash balance of 8s., one pound was taken from his Stock, and the price being still 95, its value was 19s.; which being added to his balance gave 1l. 7s. and the 10s. withdrawn being deducted, left 7s. to his credit.

No. II.

[The Depositor's Book, having the Regulations prefixed, should be precisely in the same form. The Book now used at Bath being printed, (in considerable quantity,) before the alteration that has taken place in the mode of investment, is not in so convenient a form, though still applicable to the purpose. Three Tables have also been added, for the Depositor's information, which are considered of great use.]

Manager's Journal. No. III.

	No. of Book.	Deposits received. £.	s.	d.	Deposits withdrawn. £.	s.	d.
July 8	55	5	0	0			
	67	10	0	0			
	3	2	0	0			
	2	1	0	0			
	33	4	10	0			
	44		0	0	1	0	0
	27	50	0	0			
	31	50	0	0			
		122	10	0	1	0	0
Withdrawn		1	0	0			
		121	10	0	paid to Treasurer.		

NOTICES TO WITHDRAW.

No. 35 £1

ORDER TO PURCHASE STOCK.

£100

[Signature of Manager.]
H. E.

Depositors wishing to draw small sums, are generally paid out of the receipts of the day, without insisting on the 28 days notice.

Dr. *Account of Stock* [No. IV.]

Date.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits. £.	s.	d.	Price of Stock.	Amount of Stock credited. £.	Value of Stock credited. £.	s.	d.
	6	122	10	0	95	126	120	2	0

Only the new Depositors are added.

credited to Depositors. *Cr.*

Date.	Number of Depositors withdrawn.	Amount withdrawn in Cash. £.	s.	d.	Price of Stock.	Amount of Stock withdrawn. £.	Value of Stock withdrawn. £.	s.	d.
July 8	1	1	0	0	95	1		19	0

Dr. *Trustees' Stock Account.*

Date.	Amount of Deposits invested. £.	s.	d.	Price of Stock.	Amount of Stock. £.	Trustees' Names.
July 8	95	0	0	95	100	A. B. C. D. E. F.
July 15	95	0	0	95	100	Ditto

Trustees' Stock Account. [No. V.] *Cr.*

Date.	Produce of Stock.	Price of Stock.	Amount of Stock sold.	Trustees' Names.
	£ s. d.		£.	

It has never been found necessary here to sell any Stock, as the 28 days notice required to withdraw deposits affords sufficient time to provide for the amount to be withdrawn out of the deposits coming in.

DIVIDEND

JULY.

No. of Book.	Amount of Stock.	Dividend.			One-sixth deducted.			Five-sixths of Dividend to be paid to Depositor.		
	£.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1	10	0	5	0	0	0	10	0	4	2
2	5	0	2	6	0	0	5	0	2	1

ACCOUNT. No. VI.

JANUARY.

Amount of Stock.	Dividend.			One-sixth deducted.			Five-sixths of Dividend to be paid to Depositor.			Amount of both Dividends to be paid to Depositor.		
£.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
20	0	10	0	0	1	8	0	8	4	0	12	6
14	0	7	0	0	1	2	0	5	10	0	7	11

No. VI.

Account of the Reserved One-Sixth.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
By One-Sixth of the Dividends reserved.				To Actuary's Salary.			
				Rent of Office			
				Office Books, and Depositor's Books			
				Brokerage on purchase of Stock			
				Powers of Attorney, and Postages of Bank Receipts, as charged by the Treasurer			

[No Printing is charged to this Account; nor any expenses, but such as are incurred in the actual transaction of the business of receiving, entering, investing, and withdrawing Deposits. All disbursements for the printing of papers, and promoting the general system, are more properly chargeable directly on the Donation Fund.]

To the credit of this Fund will be carried, from time to time, all monies arising by the omission of fractions of a penny in the Accounts, as well as from every other source of advantage from the Deposits, and the whole divided amongst the Depositors, at such time and manner as may be agreed upon: here it has been fixed at the expiration of five years.

§ VI.

First Year's Report of the Provident Institution, established at Bath, January 1815.

THE Trustees and Managers of the Provident Institution, established at Bath, for the receipt, and investment in Government Securities, of the savings of the frugal and industrious, have hitherto abstained from drawing the public attention to the establishment under their direction, in the hope that the issue of experience would better support such an application, than any pre-conceived opinions they might entertain on the subject. In this expectation they have not been disappointed;—and having now reached the end of their first year, with the most encouraging degree of success, they feel it incumbent on them to submit to the public the result of their labours, as well for the purpose of spreading abroad a more particular knowledge of the advantages of the system of Provident Institutions and Saving Banks generally, as for

promoting the formation of similar institutions in situations calculated for their establishment.

It must be recollected, that this Institution was formed in a city where there are few manufactures,—nor any trade beyond the actual supply of the inhabitants;—whose immediate vicinity contains but a small proportionate number of agricultural labourers,—and whose neighbouring manufactories are exclusively connected with the towns to which they adjoin, and to which the inhabitants resort. Yet, under these circumstances, so obviously unfavourable to the collection of large or frequent deposits, they have received and invested, within twelve months, the sum of Four Thousand and Eighteen Pounds.

In order fully to appreciate this successful result of the first year's trial of an experiment absolutely new in this country, it is necessary to consider the nature and extent of the obstacles which these Institutions will have to encounter; and it is in the infancy of the earliest establishment, that such opposition, not loud, but deep, will operate with the greatest vigour and effect.

They will be opposed by the well-founded diffidence of the lower orders in all invitations

for the deposit of their money, after their frequent and fatal experience of the instability of private security.

They will be opposed by the interests of all the smaller tradesmen, whose profits are chiefly derived from a certain accommodation or credit given to their poorer customers, which, at the same time that it confines them to their own particular shop, gives a license for unreasonable charges. This pernicious practice, which swallows up the earnings of industry, and encourages the indulgence of idleness, would be entirely destroyed by those habits of frugality, which would lead the poor to make the earnings of the week answer its expenses, and deposit the surplus with a Provident Fund.

Another practice prevails, among the lower classes, of lending to small tradesmen whatever monies accident or industry has placed at their disposal; and it has been a subject of great regret, that, in the frequent insolvencies of these petty traders, a considerable number of creditors were of this description. It is one of the avowed objects of Provident Institutions to put an end to this practice; to secure such monies at accumulating interest; and to prevent that check to the habits of prudence, by which such

deposits were produced, as would, in all probability, be the consequence of their loss.

It can hardly be expected, that any of those who derive an emolument from the custody of the money of others, under whatever denomination; will warmly promote an undertaking, which certainly tends to withdraw all small sums at least from an unproductive to an accumulating place of deposit, and to transfer to the proprietor that profit which had accrued to the party holding the deposit.

Another very numerous, and by no means inconsiderable, class of persons, whose interests are in direct opposition to the principles of Provident Banks, is to be found in the Publicans; whose profits may be said to arise, in great measure, from the idleness and prodigality of their customers, which evil qualities it is the professed object of the Provident system to undermine and destroy.

It is, indeed, difficult to imagine an influence capable of overcoming or encountering, in the minds of the lower classes, that of the tradesmen with whom they deal, and the publicans to whom they resort. No means of communication are in the possession of the Directors of these Institutions to bring them frequently in con-

tact with the persons for whose benefit they were formed; a peculiar distinction from all other benevolent societies, whose chief difficulty lies rather in selecting, than in discovering, the objects of their attention.

It is considered, under these circumstances, that the receipt of so large a sum in so short a period is a strong proof of the excellence of the Provident system; but it is not alone from the success which has attended this individual establishment, that the Trustees and Managers are led to derive a favourable augury of the future. Nor do they confine their views of its advantages to the individuals resorting to the different Institutions as depositors. It must afford the highest gratification to those who were among the foremost to form this Institution, to observe that similar ones are in contemplation and progress in various parts of the kingdom; the minutes of their Committee of Correspondence shew the alacrity with which the most eminent characters, in every profession, have lent their aid in forming these resources for the frugal and industrious.—And with a felicity, almost unexampled in a plan so entirely novel in its nature, the most popular writers have concurred in their views of its important advantages, and most

ably recommended it by their high authority: so that it seems probable, an unanimity of sentiment has been reserved for this system, which has been denied to almost every other.

It is in the conviction that Provident Institutions are on the point of spreading rapidly and generally throughout the country, the Trustees and Managers persuade themselves that a statement of their leading principles, adopted after long previous and unceasing examination, and confirmed by all the experience they have hitherto had, may not be unprofitable or useless to the public, and especially to those who are forming or directing similar establishments of a later date: since even the short trial of twelve months has not been without its effect in affording a more correct view of what should be adhered to, and what avoided, than, it is presumed, can be obtained by the best consideration, unaided or uncorrected by actual experiment.

It is unnecessary to state the objects of this Institution, farther than it proposes to receive the weekly savings of the frugal and industrious, in deposits from one shilling to any amount; and by investing them in the public Funds, to secure to the depositors a certain interest of four-fifths of their dividends, and a proportionable

share of the surplus of the other fifth, which shall remain at the end of five years, after payment of the incidental expenses: Nor is it necessary to enlarge on the obvious great and substantial benefits resulting from the general adoption of such a plan, as well to the actual depositors, as to all ranks of society, who are immediately concerned in whatever tends to reduce the present contributions for the support of the poor, and whose interests are intimately connected with the moral dispositions of the lower orders.

The principles of this Institution may be thus stated:—

1. The actual and immediate investment of the deposits in Government securities.
2. The certainty which each depositor has of receiving four-fifths of this dividend, together with his contingent interest in the one-fifth retained.
3. The safety of the Trustees and Managers, in whose names, and to whose management, the deposits are invested and confided.
4. The provision made, by the first additional regulation, for receiving deposits on behalf of absent, infirm, disabled, or infant persons.

The first principle is of such importance, that the Trustees and Managers presume earnestly to recommend its invariable adoption, for the following amongst other reasons. In the first place, the absolute security of all parties connected with the Institution, either in the character of Trustees, Managers, or depositors, which is not to be obtained in the same degree by any other imaginable security, however respectable or apparently responsible, would, it is apprehended, be of itself sufficient to insure it a preference. But there are moral and national advantages resulting from it, of very superior importance, and well deserving the most serious attention. The depositor in a private bank, of whatever nature, feels himself interested in the concerns and security of the establishment. He will certainly not be forward in rejecting its paper, or in promoting any plan inimical to its interests, with which he knows himself to be inseparably connected by perhaps the strongest tie. He will rather forward any measures for its advantage, and even, in case of necessity, contribute further to its support; and consider his contribution so paid less as a sacrifice for the benefit of the establishment, than as a necessary means of preserv-

ing his own share. If this view be just, then; if, as is known to be true, Provident Banks are in progress throughout the kingdom; let it be imagined, that their innumerable depositors know and feel that they are not nominally, but in truth and fact, holders of Stock to the amount of their deposits;—that the knowledge of this fact is so forced upon their attention, that they cannot open their book, or turn over a page, without its presenting itself to their observation;—that they feel, on every receipt of their dividends, the stability and regularity of that public system, in which, for the first time, they have become participators, instead of being only contributors,—that they find and feel that they owe the safety of their savings, and the certainty of their dividends, to the existing order of things, from which they now for the first time derive a direct advantage:—Is it assigning consequences of too great magnitude to an inadequate cause, to believe that a general impression would be produced, where it is most wanted, highly favourable to the preservation of order, and the support of good government? Hitherto the labourer or mechanic has known nothing of the revenue, but as something compounded of the taxes, to which, in however small a degree, he

reluctantly contributes, but from which he has no idea of deriving any imaginable advantage. The mode in which the great society, of which he forms a part, is protected, by the administration of the public monies, does not occur to his mind; he neither sees nor feels any immediate good resulting to himself individually from any of the public advantages derived from it. He knows how much he contributes, but he is not sensible of even the smallest return. But let him know and feel that he yearly receives a certain portion of those taxes, which are raised in a large degree from his rich neighbour, and in a very inconsiderable degree from himself;—give him that strong attachment to the public interest, arising from a sensible and evident connection with his own;—and is it too much to say, that he will take a milder and more correct view of the public burthens; contribute with less reluctance to a revenue, of which he is himself to receive his share; and feel himself more intimately connected with the support of the laws and constitution of his country?

If it be desirable to spread these feelings generally over the face of the country, how incalculably beneficial will be their operation in large manufacturing districts, which are, in fact,

the places best adapted for the establishment of Provident Institutions; and where it may be fairly inferred, that the disposition to turbulence and riot so frequently manifested, and which has sometimes assumed a frightful form of systematic organization, would be repressed and checked by such feelings and interests as have been described, conjoined to those reformed habits which are anticipated from the gradual influence of these Institutions.

The Trustees and Managers are the more earnest in the support and recommendation of this principle, because other modes of investment have been suggested; and the example of a sister kingdom may be quoted, where Saving Banks are in general use, and the capital is invested in the National Banks, or in the Linen Company. But it is to be recollected, that in Scotland the intercourse with the public Funds of Great-Britain is necessarily difficult and infrequent; and that the National Banks there have acquired a degree of actual solidity and general confidence, which never can, nor perhaps ought to be, attributed to any private security in this country. Nor are there in any part of the world more favourable materials for all the component parts of a Provident Bank, than are to be

be found in that country, in the frugal habits of the people, and the highly honourable and punctilious integrity and attention of the higher classes. No inconvenience is felt, therefore, in Scotland, by the capital of their Saving Banks being committed to the care of private establishments. But still it is contended, that all those results, which it has been stated would flow from a connection between the individuals of a Saving Bank and the Public Funds, are excluded from the northern system: and in so much is the plan adopted here superior to that of Scotland, as it embraces all the good that is effected there, with the paramount advantages resulting from this different mode of investment.

The same reasoning applies with still more force to those suggestions which have been made, with the best motives, for collecting the savings of a village or small district into the hands of some one respectable individual, who is to act as the gratuitous agent, and account annually for the dividends. It will be seen at once, that all the security and certainty of the Provident Bank is lost to this plan. That when the agent dies, the money of the depositors becomes mingled inseparably with his own money; and it is to be feared, that too many cases might

occur, where the claims on the effects of the deceased might materially affect the amount of the deposits: nor could the deposits be reclaimed without considerable trouble and expense. Similar losses might arise during the life of the agent, from accident or negligence, to say nothing of the inducement held out to the necessitous to obtain the savings of the frugal within the scope of their influence, leaving them dependent on the precarious issue of unwise or unfortunate speculations for the safety of their little funds.

How fatal to the character of every establishment, of the nature of a Provident or Saving Bank, would be one failure of this nature! As far as the knowledge of it extended, there would be generated in the minds of the lower classes an abhorrence of the whole system, hardly to be overcome; and there would probably ensue a relaxation or total abandonment of all those growing habits of frugality and industry, which had been found to expose them to the certain privation of their accustomed indulgences, without ensuring an adequate or even any reward.

The Trustees and Managers, therefore, venture most earnestly to recommend the adoption of the practice of investing deposits in Govern-

ment Securities only, as essential to the safety of all the parties, and productive of good consequences, of such a description and extent as cannot be attained by any other mode.

The second principle of securing to the depositor a certain four-fifths of his dividend, rather than dividing the balance after deducting the expense, has also met with the decided approbation of the Trustees and Managers; inasmuch as it secures the confidence of the depositor, by destroying that suspicion which always attaches to a dividend dependent on a statement of expenses, and which expenses would in fact, for the first two years at least, absorb the dividends of every infant institution. A contrary system would produce a manifest injustice, in making the extraordinary expense of the first years fall on the early depositors, while the subsequent ones would receive the benefit without sharing in the cost; and it would also tend to keep back cautious depositors, who would wait till the costly years of the establishment were past, before they came forward with their money, and leave the burthen to be borne by perhaps a more deserving class of depositors. It is true, that some expense is therefore thrown on the first promoters of the establishment; but such is the

general eagerness to adopt the plan, that a very trifling subscription will be found adequate to the charge; and by obtaining the rules and regulations, forms and mode of book-keeping, of the elder societies, much expense may be saved to those of later formation. In the article of calculation of interest, and value of Stock alone, it is evident that one set of tables would serve all the different Banks; and it is believed, that keeping the accounts requires no abilities beyond those of an ordinary clerk; it being always presumed that the Managers give their personal attendance and inspection to all the details of the Institution.

One of the first objects that will present itself to the founders of any Provident Institution will naturally be the providing for the security of those who are to act as Trustees, and those who are to direct the concerns of the Institution as Managers. It is evidently impossible to do away the legal responsibility of the Trustees for the production of the monies standing in their names; but it is believed, that the regulations of this Institution, under which their trust is exercised, do so effectually protect the Trustees in every imaginable case, that their responsibility is without risk: while it is scarcely possible that any

person, legally entitled to any part of the fund, should find any difficulty in obtaining it. The regulations were framed on the best advice, and with great care; and nothing has yet occurred to induce a doubt of their sufficiency.

The provision that is made for the receipt of deposits, on behalf of the absent, infirm, and infants, is believed to be peculiar, in its extent at least, to this Institution. The deposit so made becomes absolutely vested in the party for whose benefit it was deposited; but all controul is suspended, till he signs the regulations; while, in the mean time, the annual dividends are laid out to accumulate for his advantage: thus affording, perhaps, the only instance, where, without expense or trouble on the part of the depositor, a sum of money may be invested at compound interest, and accumulate for the benefit of the party designated. It is conceived that this may be resorted to, with great advantage, by all who are desirous of making a provision for a faithful servant, a deserving child, an infirm parent, or any other object of their affection or benevolence; as well as by those who have the attainment of any particular object in view, to which their present funds are unequal, as marriage, the outfit of a small trade, or the purchase or furnishing

a dwelling; it is particularly applicable to the cases of those who shall wish to effect this during an absence from this country: since from the instant the first deposit is made, it becomes an unalienable and accumulating fund, under the direction of the Institution, without further care or interference on the part of the original depositor.

The Trustees and Managers, having thus stated to the public the prominent features of a successful and growing establishment, close this Report with the expression of the firm conviction of their minds, that, next to the general diffusion of knowledge, now happily taking place with unexampled rapidity throughout the kingdom, no mode has yet been devised so likely to effect a thorough and lasting reformation in the moral habits of the bulk of the people,—increase their individual comforts,—and promote their general happiness; as by such security to the frugal and industrious, and such inducements to improved habits in the idle and profligate, as are afforded by Provident Institutions. And they cannot forbear to add their persuasion, that the lower orders will be more closely and strongly attached to the existing Constitution of their Government, by a new sense of common

interest in its most obvious form, by securing to them an evident and direct participation in the public revenue, and a direct interest in the public Funds, which, however minute, will be as precious in their estimation as the larger stake which their landlords or masters may hold in the soil.

APPENDIX (A.)

See page 34.

THE hope, here expressed, to rescue the lower orders of people from the miseries of indigence, and to diminish the number of "paupers, beggars, and criminals," does not rest solely nor principally on the means provided to enable them to preserve their Savings. We may now reckon upon the beneficent influence of a religious and moral education, which is happily spreading generally through the land.

To encourage such a pleasing hope, let the following facts be attentively considered. In the Reports of the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor, (No. 128, and Appendix IX.) my very intelligent friend the late Dr. JAMES CURRIE, in order to shew what are the wonderful effects of a good education, has given a most interesting and instructive account of what had been the wretched and profligate condition of poor people in Scotland in 1696, before their parish schools were established; compared with 1797, "when there is, perhaps, no country in Europe, in which, "in proportion to its population, so small a number of crimes "fall under the chastisement of the criminal law, as in "Scotland. In thirty years, the executions in this part of "the island did not amount to six annually." A stronger proof of the influence of education, in the prevention of crimes, can be produced in the North of England.

In 1781, I proposed a plan to educate *all the poor boys* in Chester, by a modification of a Charity School, which had been long established in that city. As an argument in support of this PROPOSAL, (which, 35 years ago, was so new a notion as to require all the arguments that could be produced,) I stated the following fact. "In the last 33 years, not one, "and in the memory of man, only one native of West-"morland has been executed as a criminal in Weſtmorland."

As so extraordinary a fact well deserves to be ascertained on better authority than tradition, I took the liberty to address this inquiry to the Earl of LONSDALE, as Lord-Lieutenant of the County, who condescended to transmit to me the following authentic document.

"According to the testimony of the old inhabitants of "Appleby and the neighbourhood, the following Westmor-"land-born men have been hanged since 1747.

"A tailor, for poisoning his sweetheart.

"THOMAS NICHOLSON, for a rape, 1815."

His Lordship adds, "antecedent to this period, I have "heard it stated, that no execution had taken place in that "county, since the memory of man."

Westmorland has 41,617, and Scotland 1,526,492 inhabitants, being less than thirty-seven times the number. According to the proportion in Scotland, there would have been an execution, of one native of the county, at Appleby, nearly every 6 years, instead of one in much more than a century; as tradition before 1781 up to 1815 must extend to a far longer period of time.

It will be highly instructive to enquire into the cause of this wonderful exemption from crimes in this county. It is manifestly to be ascribed to the good education of all ranks of people, as I can explain on the authority, and in the words, of the Right Rev. Dr. MAJENDIE, in a letter which I had the honour to receive from his Lordship in 1809, being

at that time Bishop of Chester. "In the northern part of "this diocese, there is scarcely a village that does not hap- "pily enjoy the benefit of the combined offices of Minister "and Schoolmaster in the same person."*

The advantages of instruction by the Minister of the parish were unfortunately confined to "the northern part of the "diocese," as his Lordship's expression implies. Being born in the Yorkshire portion of this district, I witnessed, in early life, what virtues and blessings were diffused by such an education among all classes of people, so as to excite a constant and earnest desire to spread throughout society the same happiness in other places, whenever any practicable opportunity occurred.

At Chester, as in most large towns, there had long existed a charity school. Thirty boys were educated and maintained in a commodious building, called the Blue-coat Hospital, which was supported in part by an established fund, but chiefly by the charitable contributions of the more opulent and beneficent inhabitants, who hence became Trustees. The income having increased so as to maintain five (or six) more scholars, I ventured to offer a PROPOSAL to extend the benefit of instruction to a much larger number of children; which was unanimously approved and adopted, in 1783 and 1784, upon the following plan:

"That the boys should remain *in* scholars only two, "instead of four years: That instead of six *in*-scholars, there "should be 120 *out*-scholars, who were to be taught to read, "write, and some arithmetic: That when the *out*-scholars

* But it is a melancholy consideration, that several of the principal schools, even of royal foundation in the North of England, where those Ministers formerly received a classical education are falling into decay, through neglect of the present masters, occasioned, probably, by too ample endowments. See my letter to Bishop Law on p. 5.; and containing (p. 67) the testimony of Bishop Markham, above quoted.

" had received instruction for two years, fifteen, and occa-
" sionally more of them, who had been most diligent, and
" had made the best proficiency, should be elected at a
" General Meeting, and after an examination, by the Trustees
" annually assembled for the purpose, to supply the vacan-
" cies of the *in*-school; where they would be entitled to
" complete maintenance, as well as instruction for two
" more years: That the *in*-scholars, at the end of their
" term, were to be rewarded by an apprentice fee, when
" placed in some useful trade: That the unsuccessful can-
" didates were to remain two years longer as *out*-scholars:
" That the subscribers, in rotation, were to have the privi-
" lege to nominate the *out*-scholars as vacancies occurred.

" REMARKS.

" It appeared that the 120 *out*-scholars added to the 30
" *in*-scholars would comprehend *one-third* of all the boys in
" Chester, who were nine years old; which probably com-
" prehended all that wanted charitable assistance for their
" education. It was computed, that the annual expense of
" one *in*-scholar was £14, and of one *out*-scholar 14s. It
" was expected, and with very good reason, that the hope
" to obtain so great a prize would powerfully excite dili-
" gence and emulation, without which Charity Schools usu-
" ally become idle, useless, and even pernicious institutions.

" To educate *all* the poor children according to the regu-
" lations of Chester, rather than a *few*, might be a sufficient
" motive for their adoption. But the advantages to be
" derived from such an arrangement are in a far higher
" degree than merely according to the different proportion of
" numbers. By such rewards for good behaviour in youth,
" moral and religious habits, industry, subordination, and
" every quality that may be thought valuable in society,
" might be most successfully cultivated. How much supe-

" rior are these benefits, to what could be expected from a " few children sent into a common Charity School, by pa- " tronage, to eat and sleep, without any merit or exertion of " their own? And if patronage were any consideration " worth notice, it is manifest that the Trustees of these cha- " rities would have twenty times more recommendations " to bestow.

" If none were admitted to wear charity clothes, but those " who had obtained them by comparative merit, they would " become honourable as well as useful. They would " even promote the success of these children through life, " as indicating those who are best qualified to fill the lower " offices in society, by their good conduct and useful " knowledge."

On my last visit to Chester, in 1808, I had the satisfaction to find that this plan had been faithfully executed ever since 1784; so that, for 24 years, *all the poor* boys in that city had received an excellent education. What has been successfully accomplished in one place, affords the best recommendation to adopt like measures in others.*

In 1808, I addressed a *private* letter to my most excellent friend, the late Bishop PORTEUS, to propose a plan which might give a " *good education to all the poor children in* " *England*," beginning with the metropolis, founded upon the complete success at Chester, where, for so long a period of time, it had been proved by experience to be practicable. But his Lordship being then in a declining state of health, with the infirmities of age, which soon became fatal, he was utterly incapable of any exertions farther than by an earnest recommendation of the plan to the Trustees of the Charity Schools in London, but without success. According to his

* In 1787, schools to teach *all the poor girls* to read and work were ablished in Chester; but being founded on less permanent principles, continued only about nine years. See Letter, p. 15—21.

Lordship's advice and request, this Letter was published, though, in these circumstances, no hopes could be entertained, that it would obtain any attention.

At this more auspicious season, when such a spirit of philanthropy and patriotism happily prevails in Parliament, and throughout England, to educate all poor children; this brief account of the proceedings at Chester may recommend itself, as an example worthy of imitation, not only in the metropolis, but in many other large towns. In some places, the same plan may be adopted; and in many others, it may be hoped, that individual Trustees of established schools, where clothes, &c. are bestowed, will be induced to *elect*, from Sunday and Day Schools in their neighbourhood, the most meritorious boys and girls, according to strict inquiry, as a reward for good behaviour.

While this sheet was in the press, I had great satisfaction in receiving an accurate account of the effects of education upon the lower orders of people, in diminishing "pau-"pers, beggars, and criminals," in Switzerland. A Traveller, who is very attentive in observing the condition of all classes of society in the different countries which he visits, was informed by Dr. Schole, a physician at Lausanne, "that in the Pays de Vaud, among a population of 150,000 inhabitants, they have hardly any poor: that beggars are very rare: that, in the last 30 years, only five persons have been executed: that instruction is universally diffused, and the poor are taught gratis: that the poor are attended to both by the Government, and by private Institutions: that societies of charity are formed in many towns of the Canton to procure relief and work for the poor: that at Lausanne there is a society of the inhabitants which takes care of the poor, and assists them with money, bread, cheap soup, wood, &c.: that there are also Friendly Societies of the different trades to support their members in distress: that the Ecole

de Charité depends on voluntary contributions; it gives instruction and employment to a great number of children, (nearly gratis,) until they receive the sacrament, and are of an age to be put out to trade; it besides takes care of orphans until they can earn their own livelihood: that a Bible Society has been established here, but it seems to be unnecessary, as every family in the Canton is obliged to have at least one *copy of the scriptures*, and *a certificate of possessing it is required before the bans of marriage of any of the family can be published:* that considerable attention seems to be paid to the peasantry by the Clergy, and the examination previous to receiving the sacrament is said to be very severe."

According to "the Report of the Hampshire Society for the Education of the Infant Poor, on the Plan of the Rev. Dr. Bell, and on the principles of the Established Church, in 1816, there are 5268 children under instruction." This Society was formed under the patronage of the Bishop of Winchester, by the zealous exertions of the Clergy, and liberally supported by the voluntary contributions of the opulent and humane inhabitants of the county. In several places, the minister of the parish supplies the whole expense of his schools.

Throughout Dorsetshire, National Schools have been completely established, as I was informed by a letter from Wm. Morton Pitt, esq; M. P. for the county, who has, I know, been long attentive to such concerns: for above 30 years, he has occasionally honoured me with his correspondence on the education of poor children.

APPENDIX (B.)

See p. 31—34.

THE Committee of Accounts, at Bath, being Managers great ability and zeal, transact this business with perfect ccuracy and ease. But, in other places, it may sometimes e trusted to an ignorant and careless clerk, and all possible re should be taken, in the first instance, to prevent any rors that may be apprehended.

Might not the method of transacting the business of the stitution be rendered considerably more easy and obvious the Manager, Actuary, and Depositor, by avoiding the ctions of *eighths* in the price of Stock, and by reckoning it in even pounds. Thus when the Stock is at 93½ ¼ or ⅜, to be taken at 93; but when at 93½ ⅝ ¾ or ⅞, to be taken at 94. By such a regulation, there would be only the difference of a small fraction on a deposit, and quite impartially.

If the annexed Table be placed in the Depositor's Book, (instead of the 1st Table, p. 60, of which it is only an enlargement,) he might come prepared with money to purchase even pounds of stock, according to the price published by the Actuary weekly in the newspapers. The multiple of £1 Stock in the 1st Table, does not exactly correspond with larger sums, as the fractions of a penny are added, when they make even pence. The Depositor, with this information before him, would endeavour to advance a few shillings in

order to invest even pounds of Stock, so that he might obtain interest for his whole deposit. However, his odd money should be always received, and entered in his book; and then he should be told what addition to it would produce another pound of Stock, at any future time. By the proposed method of transacting this business, the complicated accounts in the Depositor's Ledger, (p. 52 and 53,) arising from the cash balances, &c. which occasion much trouble, and might sometimes cause a stale, would be generally avoided, at the first entry, or soon after removed.

1st TABLE, (for p. 60.) shewing what even Pounds of Stock will cost.

Pounds of Stock at	90			91			92			93			94			95			96			97			98			99		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1	0	18	0	0	18	5	0	18	5	0	18	8	0	18	10	0	19	0	0	19	3	0	19	5	0	19	8	0	19	10
2	1	16	0	1	16	5	1	16	10	1	17	3	1	17	8	1	18	0	1	18	5	1	18	10	1	19	3	1	19	8
3	2	14	0	2	14	8	2	15	3	2	15	10	2	16	5	2	17	0	2	17	8	2	18	3	2	18	10	2	19	5
4	3	12	0	3	12	10	3	13	8	3	14	5	3	15	3	3	16	0	3	16	10	3	17	8	3	18	5	3	19	3
5	4	10	0	4	11	0	4	12	0	4	13	0	4	14	0	4	15	0	4	16	0	4	17	0	4	18	0	4	19	0
6	5	8	0	5	9	3	5	10	5	5	11	8	5	12	10	5	14	0	5	15	3	5	16	5	5	17	8	5	18	10
7	6	6	0	6	7	5	6	8	10	6	10	3	6	11	8	6	13	0	6	14	5	6	15	10	6	17	3	6	18	8
8	7	4	0	7	5	8	7	7	3	7	8	10	7	10	5	7	12	0	7	13	8	7	15	3	7	16	10	7	18	5
9	8	2	0	8	3	10	8	5	8	8	7	5	8	9	3	8	11	0	8	12	10	8	14	8	8	16	5	8	18	3
10	9	0	0	9	2	0	9	4	0	9	6	0	9	8	0	9	10	0	9	12	0	9	14	0	9	16	0	9	18	0
20	18	0	0	18	4	0	18	8	0	18	12	0	18	16	0	19	0	0	19	4	0	19	8	0	19	12	0	19	16	0
30	27	0	0	27	6	0	27	12	0	27	18	0	28	4	0	28	10	0	28	16	0	29	2	0	29	8	0	29	14	0
40	36	0	0	36	8	0	36	16	0	37	4	0	37	12	0	38	0	0	38	8	0	38	16	0	39	4	0	39	12	0
50	45	0	0	45	10	0	46	0	0	46	10	0	47	0	0	47	10	0	48	0	0	48	10	0	49	0	0	49	10	0

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